

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

February 19, 2025

Thirtieth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:01 a.m.

The roll showed nineteen members present. Senator Olson was excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Major Petr Janousek, The Salvation Army. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Gracious God,

Thank you for all your blessings which you are giving us every day. May our eyes be open to see it. Thank you for all the gifts, talents, skills and experiences we gather through our lives, may we use them all according to your will. And thank you Lord for who we are, may we always walk in your ways. And may we be inspired by the words of the founder of The Salvation Army, Catherine Booth when she said "...what the law tried to do by a restraining power from without, the gospel does by an inspiring power from within."

Dear Jesus, may our hearts be filled with your love and compassion, so that we can be inspiration and shine into the darkness around us. In your precious name I pray, Amen.

Senator Tobin led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the House

Message dated February 17 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Bills

HB 65

HOUSE BILL NO. 65 BY REPRESENTATIVES STUTES, Tomaszewski, Prax, Galvin, Saddler, Bynum, Elam, McCabe, Costello, Schrage, Nelson, Josephson, Rauscher, entitled:

"An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

Communications

The following reports are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Department of Education and Early Development
Annual Report
February 14, 2025
in accordance with AS 14.03.078

Alaska State Commission for Human Rights
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 18.80.150

Standing Committee Reports

SB 17

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 17 "An Act establishing the crime of airbag fraud."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson. Signing no recommendation: Senators Merrick, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

- Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Alaska Judiciary System
- Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Administration
- Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Administration
- Fiscal Note No. 4, zero, Department of Corrections
- Fiscal Note No. 5, zero, Department of Public Safety
- Fiscal Note No. 6, zero, Department of Law

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 29

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 29 "An Act relating to an executive administrator for the Big Game Commercial Services Board."

Signing do pass: Senator Giessel, Chair; Senators Hughes, Dunbar, Claman, Wielechowski. Signing no recommendation: Senators Kawasaki, Myers.

The following fiscal information was published today:

- Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 30

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 30 "An Act making certain veterans eligible for a lifetime permit to access state park campsites and the parking and restrooms of developed facilities without charge; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30(RES)

Signing do pass: Senator Giessel, Chair; Senators Hughes, Dunbar, Claman, Wielechowski. Signing no recommendation: Senators Kawasaki, Myers.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Natural Resources

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 31

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 31 "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Administration; creating an address confidentiality program; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 31(STA) "An Act creating and relating to the address confidentiality program; and providing for an effective date."

Signing amend: Senator Kawasaki, Chair. Signing do pass: Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson, Bjorkman, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Public Safety
Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Public Safety
Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Public Safety
Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Administration

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 63

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 63 "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

President Stevens removed the State Affairs Committee referral from the bill.

President Stevens added a Finance Committee referral to the bill.

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 76

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 76 "An Act relating to complex care residential homes; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Hughes, Claman, Giessel.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Health
Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Health
Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions**

SJR 9

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9 BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS,

Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and Alaska; and recognizing the importance of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement negotiated by President Donald J. Trump in October of 2018.

was read the first time and referred to the Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 62

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 62 BY SENATOR TOBIN, entitled:

"An Act relating to the board of parole; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Labor and Commerce Committees.

SB 102

SENATE BILL NO. 102 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Community and Regional Affairs and State Affairs Committees.

SB 103

SENATE BILL NO. 103 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to certified nurse aide training; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

SB 104

SENATE BILL NO. 104 BY SENATOR KAWASAKI, entitled:

"An Act relating to the transfer of a title on the death of the owner; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Transportation and State Affairs Committees.

SB 105

SENATE BILL NO. 105 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to the lease and sale of state land for recreational cabin sites; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Resources and Finance Committees.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Natural Resources

Governor's transmittal letter dated February 18:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am pleased to transmit this bill concerning the lease and sale of state land for cabin sites.

Currently, only one percent of state land is in private ownership. This bill allows more Alaskans to lease and purchase state land for cabin sites, promoting settlement, fostering economic growth, and reflecting the principle that private land ownership is fundamental to personal freedom and prosperity.

This legislation refines the existing remote cabin sites program by updating eligibility requirements and establishing clear processes for nominating and staking cabin sites. The bill allows for an eligible applicant to nominate up to ten acres of available state land for a cabin site if that land is not included in the schedule of land offerings. Purchasers must complete a survey and appraisal of the site and pay its fair market value.

By expanding Alaskans' access to state land, this bill strengthens private land ownership and invests in Alaska's future.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy

Governor

SB 106

SENATE BILL NO. 106 was not introduced.

SB 107

SENATE BILL NO. 107 BY SENATOR HUGHES, entitled:

"An Act establishing a violation for hindering the Alaska Sunset Commission; establishing the Alaska Sunset Commission to review, audit, and make recommendations on discontinuation of or changes to state entities; and relating to the powers and duties of the Alaska Sunset Commission."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring - 2025 Alaska Business Hall of Fame Laureates
Senator(s) Kaufman, Cronk
Representative(s) Coulombe

In Memoriam - Lindley Harris “Ketch” Ketchum
Senator(s) Giessel

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Senator Tobin

Alaska Aerospace Corporation Board of Directors
Senator Stevens

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute Board of Directors
Senator Hoffman
Senator Stedman
Senator Stevens
Senator Kawasaki, alternate

Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas
Senator Giessel

Governor's Advisory Council on Opioid Remediation
Senator Claman

Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking
Senator Kiehl

Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Committee

Senator Stedman

Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Senator Hoffman

Senator Dunbar, alternate

Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Senator Gray-Jackson

Education Commission of the States

Senator Stevens

Alaska Gasline Development Corporation

Senator Giessel, legislative liaison

Energy Council Executive Committee

Senator Stedman

Senator Giessel

Energy Council

Senator Kawasaki

Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research

Board of Directors

Senator Giessel

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Delegate Council

Senator Giessel

Senator Kiehl

Senator Olson, alternate

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Tobin

State Legislative Leaders Foundation Board of Directors

Senator Stevens

SB 103

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 103 "An Act relating to certified nurse aide training; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from February 26 through February 28. Without objection, Senator Hoffman was excused.

SB 6

Senators Claman, Wielechowski, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 6 "An Act requiring education in the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on March 7. Without objection, Senator Claman was excused.

SB 9

Senator Hughes moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 9 "An Act relating to the surrender of infants; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

HB 65

Senators Bjorkman, Hughes, Cronk, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on HOUSE BILL NO. 65 "An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Yundt moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on February 28. Without objection, Senator Yundt was excused.

Announcements**SSCR 1**

Senator Giessel, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent Uniform Rule 23 be waived on SENATE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 Disapproving Executive Order No. 136, for the Resources Committee meeting today. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:45 a.m., February 20, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

Announcements

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

STANDING COMMITTEES

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Feb 25	Tuesday No Meeting Scheduled	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
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EDUCATION

Feb 19	Wednesday -- Please Note Time & Location Change -- Meeting jointly with the House Education Committee -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- + Presentation: Alaska Municipal Leaders Education Priorities by Participants in the Alaska Municipal League 2025 Winter Legislative Conference Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Davis 106	8:00 AM
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EDUCATION (continued)

Feb 21 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 += SB 41 PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
 -- Public Testimony --
 += SB 22 FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS
 -- Public Testimony --
 += SB 23 CIVICS EDUCATION
 -- Public Testimony --
 + SB 82 EDUCATION:SCHOOLS; GRANTS; FUNDING; DEBT
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

Feb 19 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + SB 72 RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + HB 65 RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Presentation: Three-Year Budget Outlook
 Legislative Finance Division
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 20 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + Presentation: Alaska Municipal League
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 21 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 No Meeting Scheduled

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LABOR & COMMERCE

Feb 19 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
+ Presentation: How Workers' Compensation Works
 Director Chuck Collins, Division of Workers' Compensation

+ SB 98 EXTEND BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --

+ SB 39 LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 21 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

Feb 19 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
+ SB 92 CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SSCR 1 DISAPPROVE EO 136
 Uniform Rule 23 Waived
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 EO 136 ESTABLISH DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 21 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 20 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
+ Presentation: Adding a faculty member to the
 UA Board of Regents
 Jill Dumesnil - Statewide President, United Academics
 Jackie Cason - UAA Faculty Senate President

+ Presentation: Department of Law Overview
 Functions and current litigation
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 20 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Winter Road Maintenance
 Andy Mills, Special Assistant, Commissioner's
 Office
 Jason Sakalaskas, Maintenance and Operations
 Chief, Northern Region
 Burrell Nickeson, Maintenance and Operations
 Manager, Central Region
 Brad Bylsma, Director, State Equipment Fleet
 Christine Langley, Director, Data Modernization
 and Innovation Office
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Feb 25 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:00 PM**
+ Department Overview

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Feb 27 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:30 PM**
+ Department Overview
 Dan DeBartolo, Admin Service Director

MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Feb 25 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Department Overview
 Craig Christenson, Deputy Commissioner
 Bob Ernisse, Admin Services Director

NATURAL RESOURCES

Feb 25 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:30 PM**
 + Department Overview
 Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 20 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
 + Presentation: The Wilson Center
 Shannon-Elizabeth O'Hare, US Polar Leadership
 Project Coordinator, Wilson Center
 Presentation: Denali Commission
 Julie Kitka, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Feb 20 **Thursday** **House Chamber** **11:00 AM**
 + Annual Address by Nick Begich III, U.S.
 Representative

Mar 18 **Tuesday** **House Chamber** **11:00 AM**
 + Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator

Mar 20 **Thursday** **House Chamber** **11:00 AM**
 + Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Feb 19 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:
 Covenant House Alaska
 Sponsored by Senator Tobin

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

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|---------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 19 | Wednesday | Davis 106 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Dock Talk: The Work of Alaska Longshoremen
Dennis Young, President, ILWU
Jesse Groom, Vice President, ILWU
Darryl Tseu, Secretary/Treasurer, ILWU
Caleb Adelman, SC Committeeman, ILWU
Travis Swangel, SW Committeeman, ILWU
Sponsored by Senator Kiehl and Representative Fields | | |
| Feb 19 | Wednesday | Beltz 105 (tsbldg) | 5:30 PM |
| + | Alaska Children's Caucus Meeting
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Presentation: Kids Count Data Book
Trevor Storrs, President & CEO,
Alaska Children's Trust
Presentation: Children's Justice Act Task Force
Josh Louwerse, Senior Director of Legislative
Affairs and Youth Systems Improvement,
Covenant House Alaska
Streamed live on AKL.tv | | |
| Feb 24 | Monday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Alaska Trucking Association Industry Overview
Jamie Benson, President/CEO
Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman and Representative Carrick | | |
| Feb 26 | Wednesday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
2025 Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure
American Society of Civil Engineers - Alaska
Section as part of the Alaska Professional
Design Council annual Legislative Fly-In
David Gamez, Tor Anderzen, Greg Kinney
Sponsored by Senator Kaufman | | |

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

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| Mar 05 | Wednesday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Safeguarding Alaska's Natural Resources from
Foreign Malign Influence
Tyler Vose, Founder & CEO, Denali Defense
Solutions
Dal Rae Beach, COO
Sponsored by Senators Shower, Yundt
and Representatives Vance, Allard | | |
| Mar 19 | Wednesday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Alaska Travel and Tourism
Alaska Travel Industry Association
Sponsored by Senator Merrick | | |
| Mar 31 | Monday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Alaska's Workforce Future
Alaska Workforce Alliance
Jose Owens, American Marine International
Carol Wren, BBNC and AWA Executive Director
Sponsored by Senator Merrick | | |
| Apr 01 | Tuesday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Alaska is an Aerospace State
Dr. Bob McCoy, Director, UAF Geophysical
Institute
Sponsored by Senator Kawasaki | | |
| Apr 09 | Wednesday | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| | Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Alaska Commission of Postsecondary Education
Sponsored by Senator Tobin | | |