

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.

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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."

Signed do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson. Signed 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."

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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 Management Areas in Alaska
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.

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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

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

EDUCATION

Feb 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	8:00 AM
	-- 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		

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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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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 20	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
-- MEETING CANCELED --			
-- Agenda Change --			
Presentation: Alaska Primary Care Association			
Nancy Merriman, CEO, Alaska Primary Care			
Association			
Lisa Aquino, CEO, Anchorage Neighborhood Health			
Center and APCA FQHC Payment Taskforce Chair			
Joshua Gilmore, CEO, Sunshine Health Center and			
APCA Board Chair			
<Above Item Removed from Agenda>			
+ SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE		
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			

JUDICIARY

Feb 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	1:30 PM
-- Please Note Location Change --			
+	Meeting Jointly with House Judiciary Committee		
Presentation: Oregon Criminal Justice Commission			
Overview			
Ken Sanchagrin, Executive Director,			
Oregon Criminal Justice Commission			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			

Feb 21	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
-- MEETING CANCELED --			
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Streamed live on AKL.tv			

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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		

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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 Ernissee, Admin Services Director		

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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

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

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 Adelmann, 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		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

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			