

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

February 26, 2025

Thirty-seventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:00 a.m.

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senators Hoffman, Olson were excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Guy Crockroft, Love, INC. Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank you for this new day, and for the blessings of living here in this great state of Alaska. I thank you for each Senator and pray your richest blessings upon each of them as they perform their duties in the service of all Alaskans. Help them have love for one another, and for all Alaskans.

Lord, your Word tells us that we should not love merely in theory with words only, but in deed and in truth, in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love mean more than words. (I John 3:18)

Lord, please give each Senator wisdom, humility, grace, and compassion. Please provide them with everything they need to excel and be good stewards of their positions so that all Alaskans may benefit from their efforts, and that they may themselves be blessed.

In the name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

Senator Bjorkman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Communications

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

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
Development
Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
2024 Report
in accordance with AS 17.30.200

Department of Public Safety
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Annual Report
in accordance with AS 18.66.050

Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR)
Annual Report FY 2024
in accordance with AS 46.08.060

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board (AMHOB)
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 19.65.180

Report from the Commissioner of the Department of Administration dated February 24 was received stating the monetary terms for the collective bargaining agreement and interest arbitration award reached with the Alaska Correctional Officer Association in accordance with AS 23.40.215.

President Stevens referred the report to the Finance Committee.

Standing Committee Reports

SB 39

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 39 "An Act relating to loans in an amount of \$25,000 or less; relating to the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry; relating to deferred deposit advances; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 39(L&C)

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

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 43

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 43 "An Act establishing the month of March as Women's History Month."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Office of the Governor

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 61

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 61 "An Act relating to an electronic product stewardship program; relating to collection, recycling, and disposal of electronic equipment; establishing the electronics recycling advisory council; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 61(RES)

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Environmental Conservation

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SJR 11

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11 BY SENATOR MYERS,

Urging the United States Congress to enact a Jones Act waiver to facilitate transportation of domestic liquefied natural gas between ports in the state.

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

SJR 12

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12 BY SENATOR DUNBAR,

Urging the United States Congress and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to address outages of National Data Buoy Center stations.

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

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 110

SENATE BILL NO. 110 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act establishing the museum construction and major expansion matching grant program; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 111

SENATE BILL NO. 111 BY SENATOR DUNBAR, entitled:

"An Act relating to the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of products that use digital electronics to operate; adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 112

SENATE BILL NO. 112 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to credits against the oil and gas production tax; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 113

SENATE BILL NO. 113 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE,
entitled:

"An Act relating to the Multistate Tax Compact; relating to apportionment of income to the state; relating to highly digitized businesses subject to the Alaska Net Income Tax Act; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Third Reading of House Bills****HB 65**

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" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall 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" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

HB 65

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 18 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

Excused: Hoffman, Olson

and so, HOUSE BILL NO. 65 passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House.

Citations

Honoring - Brenna Schaake
Senator(s) Myers
Representative(s) Carrick, Tomaszewski

Honoring - Jack Hébert
Senator(s) Hoffman

Honoring - Coach Jeannie Hebert-Truax
Representative(s) Underwood, Moore
Senator(s) Yundt

In Memoriam - Carol Chan Christiansen
Representative(s) Johnson

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:

Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Committee
Senator Kiehl

Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
Senator Bjorkman, legislative liaison

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Arctic Caucus
Senator Giessel
Senator Tobin

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Delegate Council

Senator Tobin, alternate

Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review Committee

Senator Claman

HB 65

Senators Kaufman, Claman, Stedman, Yundt 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 Kaufman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from plane time, February 27 through plane time, March 2. Without objection, Senator Kaufman was excused.

Senator Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from morning plane time, February 28 through evening plane time, March 2. Without objection, Senator Tobin was excused.

SB 89

Senator Hughes moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 89 "An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to collaborative agreements between physicians and physician assistants; relating to the practice of medicine; relating to health care providers; and relating to provisions regarding physician assistants in contracts between certain health care providers and health care insurers." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 9

Senator Cronk 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.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., February 28, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:55 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

Mar 04	Tuesday No Meeting Scheduled	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
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EDUCATION

Feb 26 + SB 93	Wednesday EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
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Feb 28	Friday -- MEETING CANCELED -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
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FINANCE

Feb 26 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

For Juneau, Southeast, Prince William Sound,
Kodiak Sign up by 10:15am

- + SB 56 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 57 APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 58 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 59 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 26 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:00 PM

-- Please Note Time Change --
For Fairbanks, Interior, Copper River Valley,
Offnets Sign up by 2:15pm

- + SB 56 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 57 APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 58 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 59 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 27 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

For Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, Unalaska,
Dillingham, Offnets Sign up by 10:15am

- + SB 56 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 57 APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 58 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 59 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE (continued)

Feb 27 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:00 PM
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 For Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Kenai Peninsula Sign up by 2:15pm
 += SB 56 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 += SB 57 APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 += SB 58 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 += SB 59 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 28 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 No Meeting Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 27 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 -- Agenda Change --
 += SB 9 SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE
 += SB 89 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 88 CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 SENATE RESOLUTION: CRISIS CARE
 <Pending Introduction and Referral>
 <Above Item Removed from Agenda>
 SENATE RESOLUTION: MEDICAID FUNDING
 <Pending Introduction and Referral>
 <Above Item Removed from Agenda>-
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

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JUDICIARY

Feb 26 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 28 **Friday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 + SB 100 THEFT: ORGANIZED; MED. RECORDS; MAIL
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv



LABOR & COMMERCE

Feb 26 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
 -- Continued from 02/19/25 --
 + Presentation: How Workers' Compensation Works
 Chuck Collins, Director of Division of Workers' Compensation
 + SB 54 EXT ARCH, ENG, SURVEY BRD; REG INT DESIGN
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 28 **Friday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
 No Meeting Scheduled



RESOURCES

Feb 26 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
 += SB 47 CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Presentation: Launch Alaska Update
 Launch Alaska and Portfolio Companies
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 28 **Friday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
 + SB 97 BIG GAME PERMIT PROGRAM
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 105 STATE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL CABIN SITES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 27 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 27 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 +
 Overview: Metropolitan Planning Organizations
 Aaron Jongenelen, Executive Director/MPO
 Coordinator, AMATS
 Jackson C. Fox, Executive Director, FAST Planning
 Kim Sollien, Executive Director, MVP
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Mar 03 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 +
 Administration Subcommittee

Mar 10 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 +
 Administration Subcommittee

Mar 17 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 +
 Administration Subcommittee

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Mar 11 **Tuesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 +
 Education & Early Development Subcommittee

Mar 18 **Tuesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 +
 Education & Early Development Subcommittee

Mar 25 **Tuesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 +
 Education & Early Development Subcommittee

FISH & GAME

Mar 06 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **8:00 AM**
 + Department of Fish and Game Budget
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

HEALTH

Mar 06 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **3:30 PM**
 + Presentation: Medicaid Update
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mar 04 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
 + Overview: Department of Natural Resources FY26

REVENUE

Mar 06 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Revenue Subcommittee

Mar 13 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Revenue Subcommittee

Mar 20 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Revenue Subcommittee

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 27 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 + SJR 9 RECOGNIZING ALASKA/CANADA RELATIONSHIP
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

Feb 26 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 5:30 PM
 + I. Call to Order
 II. Approval of the Agenda
 III. Approval of Minutes
 a. January 29, 2025
 IV. Executive Session
 a. Preliminary Release of Department of Family
 and Community Services, Office of Children’s
 Services (OCS) Implementation of Foster Care
 Reform Laws, Part 3
 b. Update on the Special Audit titled, “Oil and
 Gas Production Tax Audit Process”
 c. Consideration of Contract Award
 d. Legal Update
 V. Committee Business
 a. FY24 Legislature Audit
 VI. Adjourn

TASK FORCE FOR REG. OF PSYCH. MEDICINES

Feb 26 Wednesday Butrovich 205 5:30 PM
 -- Please Note Location Change --
 -- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
 + Review of Psychedelic Medicine Research & FDA
 Developments
 Task Force Process & Timeline
 Policy Considerations for Alaska
 Next Steps & Action Items

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Mar 18
+ | Tuesday
Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator | House Chamber | 11:00 AM |
| Mar 20
+ | Thursday
Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator | House Chamber | 11:00 AM |

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 26 | Wednesday
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 | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| Mar 05 | Wednesday
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 | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| Mar 19 | Wednesday
Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Alaska Travel and Tourism
Alaska Travel Industry Association
Sponsored by Senator Merrick | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |
| Mar 31 | Monday
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 | Butrovich 205 | 12:00 PM |

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

- 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 on Postsecondary Education
Sponsored by Senator Tobin