

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

February 28, 2025

Thirty-ninth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:30 a.m.

The roll showed fifteen members present. Senators Hoffman, Kaufman, Olson, Tobin, Yundt were excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Guy Crockroft, Love, INC. Senator Hughes 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 this governing body, the Alaska Senate. I ask for your blessings upon each Senator, in accordance with what the Apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy, chapter 2, where he encouraged us that "...petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Lord, I would petition that you give each Senator wisdom today, and during this session; I pray that each would be good stewards of their positions of authority, as they discuss and formulate the laws of our great State of Alaska; and I would intercede for them that you would inspire them as they serve, and I thank you for each of them.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray.

Amen.

Senator Claman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the House

Message dated February 26 was read stating pursuant to AS 24.60.130 and AS 24.60.131 the House has ratified the following public members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

H. Conner Thomas
Carl Symons White
Linda G. Cox, Alternate

Standing Committee Reports

SB 22

The Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 22 "An Act establishing a financial literacy education program for public schools; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Cronk, Stevens, Kiehl. Signing no recommendation: Senator Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Education and Early
Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 23

The Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 23 "An Act relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Cronk, Stevens.
Signing no recommendation: Senators Bjorkman, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, indeterminate, Department of Education and Early Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 41

The Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 41 "An Act relating to mental health education."

Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Cronk, Stevens, Kiehl. Signing no recommendation: Senator Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Education and Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Family and Community Services

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 47

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 47 "An Act relating to Chugach State Park; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 47(RES)

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

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Natural Resources

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

Special Committee Reports

SJR 9

The Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9 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.

Signing do pass: Senator Giessel, Chair; Senators Kawasaki, Stevens.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Resources Committee

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SJR 13

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR,

Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the appointment of state judges by the governor.

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

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Office of the Governor

Governor's transmittal letter dated February 26:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a resolution to amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article IV, Section 5. The proposed amendment would streamline the judicial appointment process by allowing the Governor to fill a vacancy in the Supreme Court or the Superior Court from among all persons determined by the Judicial Council to meet the constitutional qualifications, rather than from a limited number of names.

This change clarifies and simplifies how vacancies are filled, ensuring the Governor has a broader pool of qualified candidates while preserving the Judiciary's integrity and independence.

I respectfully request your prompt and favorable consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy

Governor

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 46

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to education funding; relating to the public education fund; relating to the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 114

SENATE BILL NO. 114 BY SENATORS CRONK, Myers, entitled:

"An Act relating to an in-state natural gas pipeline developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 115

SENATE BILL NO. 115 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE EVALUATING ALASKA'S SEAFOOD INDUSTRY, entitled:

"An Act exempting from insurance regulation cooperative agreements entered into by two or more persons engaged in commercial fishing for the purpose of paying claims or losses."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Second Reading of Senate Bills****SB 43**

SENATE BILL NO. 43 "An Act establishing the month of March as Women's History Month" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 43 will advance to third reading on the March 3 calendar.

Citations

Honoring - Sandy Fortier
Representative(s) Story, Hannan
Senator(s) Kiehl

In Memoriam - Mark Edward Withrow
Senator(s) Stevens
Representative(s) Stutes

In Memoriam - Yéil Xhoosh John Wilson, Jr.
Representative(s) Story, Hannan
Senator(s) Kiehl

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

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the following citations be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

Honoring - Alaska Aerospace Corporation
Representative(s) Stutes, Eischeid
Senator(s) Stevens

Honoring - University of Alaska Anchorage Celebrity Chef
Invitational 30th Anniversary
Representative(s) Coulombe

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

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., March 3, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:46 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 Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

EDUCATION

Feb 28 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 03 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 += SB 82 EDUCATION:SCHOOLS; GRANTS; FUNDING; DEBT
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 05 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + SB 13 SUMMER EBT BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 46 EDUCATION FUNDING
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Presentation: Special Education in Alaska by
 Front-line educators
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

EDUCATION (continued)

Mar 07 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + SB 110 MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANTS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

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

Mar 03 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + EO 136 Establish Depart. of Agriculture
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SSCR 1 DISAPPROVE EO 136
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Presentation: FY25 - FY45 Medicaid Enrollment
 and Spending in Alaska Report (MESA)
 Department of Health
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 04 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Mar 05 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 Presentation: Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 06 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + SB 80 EXTEND BOARDS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 109 PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND; POMV SPLIT
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 73 MARIJUANA: TAX/REGISTRATION; INCOME TAX
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 113 APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME; DIGITAL BUSINESS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE (continued)

Mar 07 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 No Meeting Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 04 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Presentation: Alaska Mental Health Trust
 Authority Chief Executive Officer Introduction
 Dr. Mary Wilson
 + SB 90 MINOR MENTAL HEALTH: AGE OF CONSENT
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 06 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

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

Mar 03 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 05 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 07 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

LABOR & COMMERCE

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

Mar 03 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 24 TOBACCO/NICOTINE/E-CIG AGE; E-CIG TAX
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 50 MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS: HOUSING
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 81 PUBLIC EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 05 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 54 EXT ARCH, ENG, SURVEY BRD; REG INT DESIGN
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 86 MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 07 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES

Feb 28 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 + 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

RESOURCES (continued)

Mar 03	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Jessie Chmielowski, Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission		
+= SB 92	CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 05	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Alaska Statehood Defense Presentation: GaffneyCline Global LNG Market Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 07	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 04	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: ANDVSA: Alaska's support for those experiencing sexual and domestic violence -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+= SB 40	HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH		
+= SJR 10	HMONG VETERANS; CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL		
+= SJR 6	WASHINGTON D.C. STATEHOOD -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SCR 1	ART. II, SEC. 16, CONST: VETO RECON -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 06	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 04 **Tuesday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 + Presentation: Intro to the Alaska Marine Highway System's Long-range Plan
 Craig Tornga, Marine Director, Alaska Marine Highway System
 Dom Pannone, Director of Program Management & Administration
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 06 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 + -- Continued from 2/20/25 --
 Presentation: Winter Road Maintenance
 Andy Mills, Special Assistant, Commissioner's Office
 Burrell Nickeson, Maintenance and Operations Manager, Central Region
 Brad Bylsma, Director, State Equipment Fleet
 Presentation: Rural Aviation System Update
 Troy LaRue, Director of Statewide Aviation
 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

CORRECTIONS

Mar 05 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **8:00 AM**
 Corrections 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

JUDICIARY

- Mar 05** **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **5:30 PM**
Judiciary Subcommittee

LAW

- Mar 03** **Monday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **5:30 PM**
Law Subcommittee

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mar 06 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 8:00 AM
 Public Safety Subcommittee

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

Mar 06 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

Mar 04 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + -- Please Note Location Change --
 Presentation: The Impact of the POMV on
 Alaska's Budget
 Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division
 Presentation: Alaska Permanent Fund
 Corporation's Trustees' Paper #10, titled "A
 Rules-Based Permanent-Endowment Model for Alaska"
 Jason Brune, Chair, APFC Board of Trustees and
 Deven Mitchell, APFC Executive Director and CEO
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Apr 02 Wednesday Butrovich 205 12:00 PM

Lunch & Learn Presentation:

BUILDING FOR THE NORTH: The History of Alaska

Housing and Cold Climate Solutions

Leah Winters, Public Policy Fellow, Cold Climate

Housing Research Center (CCHRC)

Sponsored by Senator Kawasaki

Apr 09 Wednesday Butrovich 205 12:00 PM

Lunch & Learn Presentation:

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Sponsored by Senator Tobin