

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

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

381

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.

SENATE JOURNAL

382

February 28, 2025

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.

Signings 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

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

383

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.

SENATE JOURNAL

384

February 28, 2025

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

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

385

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.

SENATE JOURNAL

386

February 28, 2025

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

SENATE JOURNAL

388

February 28, 2025

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		

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

389

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

SENATE JOURNAL

390

February 28, 2025

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		

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

391

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**		

SENATE JOURNAL

392

February 28, 2025

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		

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

393

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	

SENATE JOURNAL

394

February 28, 2025

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

SENATE JOURNAL

February 28, 2025

395

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		

SENATE JOURNAL

396

February 28, 2025

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			