

**SENATE JOURNAL**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Wednesday**

**March 5, 2025**

**Forty-fourth Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:03 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, Pastor Nathaniel Habeger, Juneau Christian Center. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray today for this meeting of the Alaskan Senate. I thank you that there is this time-honored tradition of praying before every gathering of the House and the Senate. But God, it is more than just tradition, it is a supernatural encounter. Where today, in this moment, I get to humble myself and seek you. I think of Solomon's prayer in the Bible, "Here is what I want: Give me a God-listening heart so I can lead your people well, discerning the difference between good and evil. For whom on their own is capable of leading your glorious people?"

So God, I echo that sentiment, who on their own is capable of leading? I pray over these Senators today that they would have wisdom in all that they do. God that you give them joy, peace and patience today. Give them energy and resilience today. God that they would feel the weight of their position but also that they are graced for it...for such a time as this. Thank you for today God and I bless these Senators in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Senator Dunbar led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Certification**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the forty-second and forty-third 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 Fish and Game  
Alaska Salmon Fisheries Enhancement  
2024 Annual Report  
in accordance with AS 16.05.092

Department of Natural Resources  
2024 Determination to Take Oil and Gas Royalty In-Value  
in accordance with AS 38.05.182

Disclosure letters received from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics in accordance with AS 24.60 will be published in Senate Journal Supplement No. 2 and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 5.

Letter from the Attorney General dated March 3 was received reporting the monetary terms for the collective bargaining agreement reached with the Teachers Education Association-Mt. Edgecumbe in accordance with AS 23.40.215 and AO 356.

President Stevens referred the report to the Finance Committee.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **SB 40**

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 40 "An Act establishing the period between September 15 and October 15 of each year as Hispanic Heritage 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 89**

The Health and Social Services Committee considered 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."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

**SJR 6**

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 Supporting the admittance of Washington, D.C., into the Union as a state of the United States of America.

Signing do pass: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson. Signing do not pass: Senators Bjorkman, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**SJR 10**

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 Encouraging the United States Congress to award Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War the Congressional Gold Medal.

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills****SB 116**

SENATE BILL NO. 116 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act amending campaign contribution limits for state and local office; directing the Alaska Public Offices Commission to adjust campaign contribution limits for state and local office once each decade beginning in 2031; and relating to campaign contribution reporting requirements."

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

**SB 117**

SENATE BILL NO. 117 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act renaming the State Commission for Human Rights the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to removal of commissioners of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to reports from the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to the definition of 'employer' for the purposes of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; and relating to local civil rights commissions."

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

**SB 118**

SENATE BILL NO. 118 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska."

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

**SB 119**

SENATE BILL NO. 119 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to fundamental rights."

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

**SB 120**

SENATE BILL NO. 120 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Alaska Climate Change Emergency Response Commission; and relating to the powers and duties of the Alaska Climate Change Emergency Response Commission."

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

**SB 121**

SENATE BILL NO. 121 BY SENATOR GIESSEL BY REQUEST, entitled:

"An Act relating to settlement of health insurance claims; relating to allowable charges for health care services or supplies; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Labor and Commerce Committees.

**SB 122**

SENATE BILL NO. 122 BY SENATOR GIESSEL BY REQUEST, entitled:

"An Act relating to insurance; establishing standards for health insurance provider networks; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Labor and Commerce Committees.

**Consideration of the Calendar****Second Reading of Senate Resolutions****SJR 9**

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, was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9 will advance to third reading on the March 6 calendar.

**Citations**

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

**Special Order of Business**

Honoring - Diane Carpenter  
Senator(s) Hoffman

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

**Unfinished Business**

President Stevens made the following appointments:

**Alaska Aerospace Corporation Board of Directors**

Senator Kaufman, alternate

**Energy Council**

Senator Bjorkman  
Senator Hughes  
Senator Kaufman  
Senator Wielechowski

**Statewide Suicide Prevention Council**

Senator Shower

**Council for Alaska Native Languages**

Senator Tobin

**Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission**

Senator Kiehl

**Council of State Governments West**

**Executive Committee**

Senator Stevens

Senator Shower

Senator Tobin

**Agriculture and Water Committee**

Senator Claman

**Energy and The Grid Committee**

Senator Wielechowski

**Wildfires and Disaster Preparedness Committee**

Senator Bjorkman

Senator Kawasaki

**Education and Workforce Development Committee**

Senator Hughes

Senator Tobin

**Technology and Future of Work Committee**

Senator Gray-Jackson

**Health and Human Services Committee**

Senator Giessel

**Housing Committee**

Senator Tobin

Senator Dunbar

**Council of State Governments National**

**Executive Committee**

Senator Stevens

**Interbranch Affairs Committee**

Senator Hughes

**Shared State Legislation Committee**

Senator Claman

**National Conference of State Legislatures Standing Committees**

**Banking, Financial Services and Insurance Committee**

Senator Bjorkman

**Budgets and Revenue Committee**

Senator Gray-Jackson

**Children, Families and Human Services Committee**

Senator Tobin

**Education Committee**

Senator Bjorkman

Senator Tobin

**Elections and Redistricting Committee**

Senator Kawasaki

Senator Shower

**Health Committee**

Senator Tobin

**Labor and Economic Development Committee**

Senator Bjorkman

Senator Wielechowski

**Law and Public Safety Committee**

Senator Claman

Senator Hughes

**Natural Resources, Energy and Environment Committee**

Senator Giessel

Senator Kawasaki

Senator Myers

**Transportation Committee**

Senator Bjorkman

Senator Myers

**National Conference of State Legislatures Task Forces**

**Agriculture Task Force**

Senator Hughes

**Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Privacy**

Senator Hughes

**Higher Education Task Force**

Senator Tobin

**Health Innovations Task Force**

Senator Claman

**Energy Supply Task Force**

Senator Kawasaki, Vice Chair

**Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force**

Senator Kawasaki, Vice Chair

Senator Shower

**State and Local Taxation Task Force**

Senator Kiehl

**National Conference of State Legislatures Nuclear Legislative Working Group**

Senator Giessel

Senator Shower

**SB 97**

Senator Wielechowski, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent the Rules Committee be withdrawn as prime sponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 97 "An Act establishing a big game guide concession area permit program on land in the state; relating to the duties of the Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Board of Game, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Natural Resources; requiring the Board of Game to establish an initial big game guide concession area; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent the Resources Committee be added as prime sponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 97 "An Act establishing a big game guide concession area permit program on land in the state; relating to the duties of the Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Board of Game, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Natural Resources; requiring the Board of Game to establish an initial big game guide concession area; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 90**

Senator Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 90 "An Act relating to the examination and treatment of minors; relating to consent for behavioral and mental health treatment for minors 16 years of age or older; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 11**

Senator Yundt moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 11 "An Act relating to flood insurance; relating to property insurance; establishing the Alaska Flood Authority and the Alaska flood insurance fund; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from March 13 through March 16. Without objection, Senator Gray-Jackson was excused.

**Announcements**

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

**Enrollment****SB 87**

SENATE BILL NO. 87 "An Act disapproving the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission; and providing for an effective date" was enrolled, signed by the President and Secretary, Speaker and Chief Clerk and the engrossed and enrolled copies transmitted to the Office of the Governor at 12:50 p.m., March 5, 2025.

**Adjournment**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., March 6, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 12:03 p.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

**EDUCATION**

**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\*\*

**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\*\*

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**FINANCE**

**Mar 05      Wednesday                              Senate Finance 532                      9:00 AM**

+ -- Rescheduled from 03/03/25 --

Presentation: FY25-FY45 Medicaid Enrollment and  
Spending in Alaska Report (MESA)

Department of Health

Presentation: Alaska Seafood Marketing  
Institute

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**FINANCE (continued)**

**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\*\*

**Mar 07 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**  
No Meeting Scheduled  
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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Mar 06 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**  
-- MEETING CANCELED --  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*  
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**JUDICIARY**

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

**Mar 07 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
No Meeting Scheduled  
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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

**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\*\*

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**RESOURCES**

**Mar 05      Wednesday                                      Butrovich 205                                      3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Alaska Statehood Defense  
 Presentation: GaffneyCline Global LNG Market  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 Consideration of Governor's Appointees:  
 Jessie Chmielowski, Alaska Oil and Gas  
 Conservation Commission  
 -- Public Testimony --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Mar 07      Friday    Butrovich 205                                      3:30 PM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

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**STATE AFFAIRS**

**Mar 06      Thursday    Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                                      3:30 PM**  
 -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**TRANSPORTATION**

**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\*\*

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**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES**

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

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

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**CORRECTIONS**

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

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**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

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**FISH & GAME**

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

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**HEALTH**

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

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**JUDICIARY**

**Mar 05**      **Wednesday**                      **Butrovich 205**                      **1:30 PM**  
-- Please Note Time & Location Change --  
Judiciary Subcommittee

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

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**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

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS**

<b>Mar 06</b>	<b>Thursday</b> No Meeting Scheduled	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
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**OTHER MEETINGS**

**JOINT SESSION**

<b>Mar 18</b> +	<b>Tuesday</b> Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
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<b>Mar 20</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
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**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

<b>Mar 05</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> 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	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>Monday</b> Lunch & Learn Presentation: So there's a disaster in my district: what the heck do I do now? Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Bryan Fisher, Director Angela Laflamme, Legislative Liaison Sponsored by Senator Kiehl	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)**

- 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 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