

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

March 12, 2025

Fifty-first 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 Stedman was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Charles Ensminger, Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Creator God, as we take this moment to pause, I pray for these members of the state senate. In thanksgiving for their work, I would ask for your wisdom to instruct them, and clarity of vision and purpose to guide them as they work for the people of Alaska.

I pray that they will be guided by integrity and a desire for justice. Give them strength of character and be with them as they face the challenges of their office.

I pray that this body will face difficulties with fortitude, their duties with fidelity, and in all things gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Defend them, their families, their constituents, and all who live in this great land. As such, I pray for these gathered here, but not just in this room; I pray for the staff, the pages, and all in this building. Watch over them, enliven their work, and uphold them in your mercy.

I pray for the state of Alaska, for our Nation, and for our world.

God of Creation, for this I pray. Amen.

Senator Hoffman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Stedman be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Stedman was excused.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate on March 13 and March 14. Without objection, Senator Olson was excused.

Messages from the Governor

Letter dated March 11 was read stating in accordance with Article III, sections 26 and 27 of the Alaska Constitution, and AS 39.05.080, I submit the following appointee(s) for confirmation:

Professional Teaching Practices Commission

Angie Alston – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2027

Kathryn Baird – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2028

Patrick Frymark – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2028

The appointments were referred to the Education Committee.

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State Medical Board

Samantha Smith – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

The appointment was referred to the Health and Social Services Committee.

Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers

William McKean – Palmer

Appointed: 3/1/2021 Expired: 3/1/2025

Reappointed: 3/1/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

Board of Dental Examiners

Traci Elison – Wrangell

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

Board of Marital and Family Therapy

Chantal Cohen – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

Board of Professional Counselors

Ashley Martin – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

Carrie-Elaine Border – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

Board of Public Accountancy

James Doughty – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

Marijuana Control Board

Lacy Wilcox – Juneau

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2028

State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors

Samson Shepherd – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/7/2025 Expires: 3/1/2029

State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

Michelle Scott-Weber – Wasilla

Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission

Andrew Hemenway – Juneau

The appointments were referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

The resumes for these appointments have been submitted to the Office of the Senate Secretary.

Messages from the House

Message dated March 11 was read stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Thirty-Fourth Alaska Legislature at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19 for the purpose of considering Senate Special Concurrent Resolution No. 1, regarding Executive Order No. 136, in the House Chamber.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate accept the House invitation to meet in Joint Session. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Communications

The following report is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Letter from the Attorney General dated March 10 was received reporting the monetary terms for the collective bargaining agreement reached between the University of Alaska and University of Alaska-United Academics-Adjuncts (AAUP-AFT/AFL-CIO) in accordance with AS 23.40.215 and AO 356.

President Stevens referred the report to the Finance Committee.

Standing Committee Reports**SB 80**

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 80 "An Act extending the termination date of the Big Game Commercial Services Board; extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; extending the termination date of the Marijuana Control Board; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 80(FIN) "An Act extending the termination date of the Big Game Commercial Services Board; extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; extending the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging; extending the termination date of the Marijuana Control Board; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Hoffman, Cochair; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Health

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

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

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

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions****SCR 2**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 BY THE SENATE
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE,

Supporting an all-payer crisis continuum of care and
Medicaid reform; and urging the Governor to direct
the Department of Health and the division of
insurance to develop recommendations for an all-
payer model for crisis care.

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

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 125**

SENATE BILL NO. 125 BY SENATOR YUNDT, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Alaska Gasline Finance
Corporation; and relating to contributions from
permanent fund dividends for the financing of a
natural gas pipeline."

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

SB 126

SENATE BILL NO. 126 BY SENATOR YUNDT, entitled:

"An Act relating to correctional facilities; relating to
the authority of the commissioner of corrections to
designate the placement of prisoners; and requiring
the Department of Corrections to estimate and report
certain cost savings."

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

SB 127

SENATE BILL NO. 127 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON BY REQUEST, entitled:

"An Act relating to the education of visually impaired students in public schools."

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

SB 128

SENATE BILL NO. 128 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Department of Agriculture; relating to the establishment of the Department of Agriculture; transferring functions of the Department of Natural Resources related to agriculture to the Department of Agriculture; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 129

SENATE BILL NO. 129 BY SENATOR KAWASAKI, entitled:

"An Act establishing a 30-day deadline for the payment of contracts under the State Procurement Code; establishing deadlines for the payment of grants, contracts, and reimbursement agreements to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and Alaska Native organizations; relating to payment of grants to named recipients that are not municipalities; and providing for an effective date."

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

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SB 130

SENATE BILL NO. 130 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
EVALUATING ALASKA'S SEAFOOD INDUSTRY, entitled:

"An Act relating to the fisheries product development tax credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 31, SLA 2022; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

In Memoriam - Robert "Tiny" Schasteen
Representative(s) Edgmon
Senator(s) Hoffman

In Memoriam - Michael Evan Sr.
Representative(s) Edgmon
Senator(s) Hoffman

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

SB 129

Senators Tobin, Giessel, Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 129 "An Act establishing a 30-day deadline for the payment of contracts under the State Procurement Code; establishing deadlines for the payment of grants, contracts, and reimbursement agreements to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and Alaska Native organizations; relating to payment of grants to named recipients that are not municipalities; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

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Senator Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from noon, April 23 through morning plane time, April 29. Without objection, Senator Bjorkman was excused.

SB 121

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 121 "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." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 55

Senators Myers, Shower, Cronk moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 55 "An Act relating to employer contributions in the teachers' retirement system; relating to supplemental employee benefits; 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., March 14, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:21 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

EDUCATION

Mar 12	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 18	COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+ HB 69	EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA	<Pending Referral>	
		<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 03/17/25>	
+ SB 6	ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:	
		Alaska Board of Education and Early Development	
		Kimberly Bergey	
		Kathryn McCollum	
		Consideration of Governor's Appointees:	
		Professional Teaching Practices Commission	
		Heidi Barnes	
		Kimberly Bergey	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	

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EDUCATION (continued)

Mar 14	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	-- Please Note Time & Location Change --		
	Meeting jointly with the Senate Judiciary Committee		
	Presentation: Policy and Prevention for Young Adults in the Juvenile Justice System		
	Adriana Galván, Director, Developmental Neuroscience Laboratory at University of California Los Angeles		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

FINANCE

Mar 12	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Medicaid Levers and Federal Marketplace		
	Department of Health		
	Lori Wing-Heier, Director, Division of Insurance, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 13	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Spring Revenue Forecast		
	Department of Revenue		
	Three Year Budget Outlook Update:		
	Response to Committee Questions		
	Legislative Finance Division		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 14	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: Major Maintenance and School Construction		
	Department of Education and Early Development		
	Alaska Council of School Administrators		
	Mt. Edgecumbe High School		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 13	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:			
+= SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE		
+= SB 83	TELEHEALTH REIMBURSEMENT RATES		
+ SCR 2	SUPPORT CRISIS CARE & MEDICAID REFORM		

JUDICIARY

Mar 12	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+= SB 12	PFD/CHILD SUPPORT		
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			
Mar 14	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Meeting jointly with the Senate Education Committee		
Presentation: Policy and Prevention for Young Adults in the Juvenile Justice System			
Adriana Galván, Director, Developmental Neuroscience Laboratory at the University of California Los Angeles			
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 12	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 54	EXT ARCH, ENG, SURVEY BRD; REG INT DESIGN		
+= SB 24	TOBACCO/NICOTINE/E-CIG AGE; E-CIG TAX		
+= SB 55	TRS CONTR RATE; PERS/TRS SOC SECUR OR SBS		
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			
Mar 14	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 89	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE		
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --			
+ SB 96	CHILD CARE; TAX CREDITS		
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --			
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			

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RESOURCES

Mar 12 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- + SB 105 STATE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL CABIN SITES
<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 03/14/25>
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 112 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Presentation: Alaska LNG: Update on QilakLNG
Mead Treadwell, CEO, QilakLNG
David Clarke, COO, QilakLNG
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 14 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
- + SB 97 BIG GAME PERMIT PROGRAM
- + SB 105 STATE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL CABIN SITES
<Bill Hearing Canceled>
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 92 CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 13 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

- + SB 64 ELECTIONS
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
- + SB 49 WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 120 CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 13 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+ Highway, Bike and Pedestrian Safety
Pam Golden, P.E., State Traffic & Safety Engineer
Shannon McCarthy, Communications Director
Dan Smith, Director, Measurement Standards and
Commercial Vehicle Compliance

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

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

COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV

Mar 14 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **8:00 AM**
+ Overview: FY26 Budget Items

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

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

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mar 13 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **3:30 PM**
+ Overview: Requested FY26 Budget Items
 Streamed live on AKL tv

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HEALTH

Mar 18 **Tuesday** **Senate Finance 532** **3:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Update from the Division of
Public Assistance
Deb Etheridge, Director
Streamed live on AKL.tv

REVENUE

Mar 13 +	Thursday Revenue Subcommittee	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM
Mar 20 +	Thursday Revenue Subcommittee	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 12 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:45 AM**
+ FY26 DOT Operating budget - Highways

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Mar 13 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Arctic Affairs in Alaska: Marine
Exchange of Alaska
Ed Page, Founder, Senior Advisor, Marine Exchange
of Alaska
Byron Hayes, Operations Center Supervisor, Marine
Exchange of Alaska
Edric Carrillo, External Affairs Officer, Marine
Exchange of Alaska
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mar 12	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM
-- Please Note Location --			
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --			
Streamed live on AKL.tv			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Call to OrderII. Approval of the AgendaIII. Approval of Minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. February 12, 2025, MinutesIV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Kenai River Junior Classic - August 5 - 6, 2025ii. Ted Stevens Kenai River Classic - August 20 - 22, 2025iii. Kenai River Women's Classic - September 11 - 13, 2025V. Executive Session<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Consideration of an Appeal in Legislative Council v. Attorney General Treg Taylor, et alVI. Adjourn			

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Mar 18	Tuesday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+ Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator			
Mar 19	Wednesday	House Chamber	10:30 AM
+ Consideration of Senate Special Concurrent Resolution 1 Regarding Executive Order 136			
SSCR 1	DISAPPROVE EO 136		
Mar 20	Thursday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+ Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator			

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Mar 17	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	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		
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		