

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

March 17, 2025

Fifty-sixth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:02 a.m.

The roll showed seventeen members present. Senator Claman was excused from a call of the Senate. Senators Hughes, Stedman were absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Trenton Cooper, Glacier Valley Baptist Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lord, Your Word says in Psalm 128, "How happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! They will surely eat what their hands have worked for. They will be happy and it will go well for them." That is my prayer today. I pray that I will learn to fear and honor You. I pray that our leaders will do the same.

Father, I believe You have brought everyone here for a purpose. It is You who establishes earthly authority. I pray that our leaders here would recognize this blessing that comes from Your hand; that they have a chance to serve our great state and her people at Your behest. May they carry out this important task with dignity, honor, and wisdom. Cause them to carry out justice and to love mercy.

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And Lord, please bless them and their efforts. Bless their families, their spouses, their children, and their grand children. Bless their friends. Lord cause Your face to shine upon them. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Senator Kaufman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the fifty-third through fifty-fifth 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 Shower moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Hughes be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Hughes was excused.

Standing Committee Reports

SB 97

The Resources Committee considered 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."

Signing do pass: Senator Giessel, Chair; Senator Claman. Signing do not pass: Senator Myers. Signing no recommendation: Senators Wielechowski, Dunbar. Signing amend: Senators Hughes, Kawasaki.

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The following fiscal information was published today:

- Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Fish and Game
- Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Fish and Game
- Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Natural Resources

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 133

SENATE BILL NO. 133 BY THE SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to prior authorization requests for medical care covered by a health care insurer; relating to a prior authorization application programming interface; relating to step therapy; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Third Reading of Senate Bills

SB 50

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 50(L&C) "An Act relating to the comprehensive plans of first and second class boroughs" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 50(L&C) "An Act relating to the comprehensive plans of first and second class boroughs" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

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CSSB 50(L&C)

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 17 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 3 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Claman, Hughes, Stedman

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 50(L&C) passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Third Reading of Senate Resolutions

SJR 10

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 Encouraging the United States Congress to award Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War the Congressional Gold Medal, was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 Encouraging the United States Congress to award Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War the Congressional Gold Medal, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SJR 10

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 17 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 3 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Claman, Hughes, Stedman

and so, SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Citations

Honoring - Urbach's Clothier

Senator(s) Stevens

Representative(s) Stutes

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Honoring - 2025 Alaska Journal of Commerce Top 40 Under 40
Recipients
Senator(s) Kawasaki

Honoring - Ticasuk Brown Elementary School
Representative(s) Stapp, Dibert
Senator(s) Kawasaki

In Memoriam - Trygve "Trig" Bjorklund
Representative(s) Allard, Saddler

In Memoriam - James Martin Lindoff Jr., L'too da xaan
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) Kiehl, Stedman

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.

Engrossment

SB 50

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 50(L&C) "An Act relating to the comprehensive plans of first and second class boroughs" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SJR 10

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 Encouraging the United States Congress to award Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War the Congressional Gold Medal, was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

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Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:45 a.m., March 18, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:28 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

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 18	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ =	SB 102	ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+ =	SB 26	ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

EDUCATION

Mar 17	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ =	HB 69	Presentation: UAA Teacher Apprenticeship Solutions UAA Provost Dr. Denise Runge EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

Mar 19	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ =	HB 69	EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

EDUCATION (continued)

Mar 21 Friday **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
+= HB 69 EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

Mar 17 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
+ Presentation: Governor's Amendments
Office of Management and Budget
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 18 **Tuesday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
+ Overview: Deferred Maintenance
University of Alaska
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 19 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
+ Presentation: Three Year Budget Outlook Update
Legislative Finance Division
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 20 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**

+ SB 31 ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 39 LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 21 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
No Meeting Scheduled

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 18	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 20	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ = SB 122	HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORK STANDARDS <Bill Hearing Canceled> -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 90	MINOR MENTAL HEALTH: AGE OF CONSENT -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 88	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 121	HEALTH INSURANCE ALLOWABLE CHARGES -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled: SENATE RESOLUTION: MEDICAID <Pending Introduction & Referral>		

JUDICIARY

Mar 17	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ =	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Daniel Carothers, Alaska Police Standards Council Consideration of Governor's Appointees: David Ross, Alaska Police Standards Council -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Presentation: Criminal Division of the Department of Law John Skidmore, Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Division Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Mar 21	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Timothy Collins, Alaska Police Standards Council		
	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Bill Satterberg, Commission on Judicial Conduct		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ = SJR 6	WASHINGTON D.C. STATEHOOD		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 17	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: UAA Workforce Solutions in Alaska		
	UAA Provost Dr. Denise Runge		
	Dr. Debbie Craig, Dean - UAA College of Health		
	Ray Weber, Dean - UAA Community & Technical College		
	Dr. Cheryl Siemers, Director - Kenai Peninsula College (KPC)		
+ SB 99	CPA AS PRIVATE PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATORS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Mar 19	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 132	OMNIBUS INSURANCE BILL		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 133	INSURANCE; PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Mar 21	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 28	RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 4	HEALTH CARE PRICES AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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RESOURCES

Mar 17	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+= SB 105	STATE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL CABIN SITES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Regulatory Commission of Alaska		
	John Springsteen		
	Steven Devries		
	Mark Johnston		
	-- Public Testimony --		
+	SJR 8	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN	
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 21	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	SB 114	GAS PIPELINE FAIRBANKS SPUR	
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	SB 125	AK GASLINE FINANCE CORPORATION	
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 18	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= SB 64	ELECTIONS		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+	SB 35	DELIVERY NETWORK COMPANIES	
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	SB 34	REPEAL 90 DAY SESSION LIMIT	
	-- Public Testimony --		
+	SB 37	STRATEGIC PLANS FOR STATE AGENCIES	
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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STATE AFFAIRS (continued)

Mar 20	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= SB 120	CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 107	ALASKA SUNSET COMMISSION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 25	JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTION INFORMATION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SJR 13	APPOINTMENT OF STATE JUDGES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 18	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 20	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SJR 12	NOAA BUOY OUTAGES		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 104	VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SJR 11	JONES ACT WAIVER FOR LNG SHIPS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

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

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

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

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EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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

HEALTH

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

REVENUE

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Mar 20 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ -- MEETING CANCELED --
+ Presentation: Arctic Affairs
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
+ **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

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OTHER MEETINGS (continued)

JOINT SESSION (continued)

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		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Mar 17	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: So, There's a Disaster in Your District: What the Heck Do You Do Now? Bryan Fisher, Director, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Angela Laflamme, Legislative Liaison, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Sabrina Grubitz, Incident Commander, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager, City and Borough of Juneau 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 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Discrimination in Alaska: A Snapshot of Alaskans' Perspectives Rob Corbisier, Alaska State Commission for Human Rights Blake Bennett, Alaska Survey Research Sponsored by Senator Myers		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

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		