

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

March 18, 2025

Fifty-seventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:46 a.m.

The roll showed nineteen members present. Senator Stedman was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Nova Tomaszewski, Senate Page. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lord God, whose light shines out of the darkness and gleams brightly into our hearts, I thank you for all the goodness you allow us to see. I want to see your goodness clearly and have confidence in it, no matter how much around us is dark and disquieting. I want to remain firm and full of trust, looking to what you have put into my heart so that I may come to know you. Be with me with your Spirit. Lead me to realize ever more clearly that I am made for your honor. Amen.

Senator Kawasaki led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journal for the fifty-sixth legislative day be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

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

Messages from the House

Message dated March 17 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

**First Reading and Reference of
House Resolutions**

HJR 5

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5 BY REPRESENTATIVES BYNUM, Saddler, Rauscher, Schrage, Schwanke, Fields, Himschoot, Underwood, Ruffridge, Elam, Mina, Eischeid, Costello, Moore, Holland, Tomaszewski, Stapp, Story, Burke, Johnson, Nelson, Hall, Coulombe, Kopp, Mears, Stutes, Hannan, Josephson, Jimmie,

Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and make the funding mechanism in the Act permanent.

was read the first time and referred to the Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

HJR 6

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 am BY THE HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE,

Urging the United States Congress to safeguard the Universal Service Fund to ensure continued funding for essential programs that support critical broadband and telecommunication infrastructure and services for low-income rural residents of the state.

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 134**

SENATE BILL NO. 134 BY SENATOR GIESSEL, entitled:

"An Act relating to pharmacy benefits managers; relating to third-party administrators; 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 135

SENATE BILL NO. 135 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE EVALUATING ALASKA'S SEAFOOD INDUSTRY, entitled:

"An Act relating to the sharing of tax revenue from the fisheries business tax and fishery resource landing tax with municipalities; relating to municipal reports on the shared tax revenue; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Citations**

Honoring - Lem Wheeles
Senator(s) Claman, Tobin
Representative(s) Hall

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**HJR 5**

Senators Kiehl, Tobin, Dunbar, Claman, Gray-Jackson, Giessel, Olson, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5 Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and make the funding mechanism in the Act permanent. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 10:53 a.m.

After Recess**Joint Session in the House**

Speaker Edgmon called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Stevens, who called the Joint Session to order at 11:04 a.m.

The purpose of the Joint Session was to hear an address by the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the Senate be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the House be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

President Stevens appointed Senator Gray-Jackson and Representative Schrage to escort U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski to the Joint Session.

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The Senate Sergeant at Arms, Matt Simpson, announced the Honorable Lisa Murkowski's entrance to the House Chamber.

Senator Lisa Murkowski was escorted to the rostrum and welcomed by President Stevens and Speaker Edgmon.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski delivered her address. This address appears in Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 6.

Following her address, there was a question and answer period. Senator Murkowski received a standing ovation.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, President Stevens adjourned the Joint Session at 12:31 p.m.

After Recess

In the Senate

The Senate reconvened at 12:34 p.m.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:15 a.m., March 19, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 12:35 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

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

Mar 25 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**

+ = SB 26 ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
 -- Public Testimony --

+ = SB 102 ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
 -- Public Testimony --

+ = SB 111 DIGITAL PRODUCT REPAIR
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL tv

EDUCATION

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

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EDUCATION (continued)

FINANCE

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

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 18 **Tuesday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
No Meeting Scheduled

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (continued)

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 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**		
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**		

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LABOR & COMMERCE

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		

RESOURCES

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		

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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		
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		

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FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

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		

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

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 19	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	7:45 AM
+	FY26 DOT Operating budget - Airports		

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**		

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JOINT COMMITTEES

TASK FORCE FOR REG. OF PSYCH. MEDICINES

Mar 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
+	Meeting topics will include:		
	- Review proposed updated meeting schedule		
	- Review preliminary report outline, initial		
	recommendations		
	- Overview of regulatory processes for controlled		
	substances and new therapies		
	- Next steps for task force members		
	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 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 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation:		
	Alaska Travel and Tourism		
	Alaska Travel Industry Association		
	Sponsored by Senator Merrick		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Mar 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	12:01 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		
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		