

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

March 31, 2025

Seventieth 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 Wielechowski was excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Douglas Mertz, Juneau Friends Meeting. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

God, help us to focus on what is important. Help us to let go of all the little things that don't matter. Help us to let go of what blocks the spirit. Help us to focus on what promotes justice and peace. Help us to embrace respect for all voices in this chamber and for all voices in our great land. Help us to have courage in the face of adversity. Amen.

Senator Stedman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

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Messages from the House

SB 43

Message dated March 28 was read stating the House passed and returned:

SENATE BILL NO. 43 "An Act establishing the month of March as Women's History Month."

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated March 31 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Finance Committee held a hearing on the following appointee(s). A signature on this report does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual(s) during any further sessions.

State Assessment Review Board

Samuel Laffey

Signing the report: Senators Hoffman, Stedman, Olson, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

SB 95

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 95 "An Act relating to the child care assistance program and the child care grant program; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SCR 2

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 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.

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 152**

SENATE BILL NO. 152 BY SENATORS CRONK, Olson, entitled:

"An Act renaming Ruby Airport as Harold Esmailka Airport; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Citations**

Honoring - The Whittier Police Department
Representative(s) Holland, Kopp
Senator(s) Giessel

Honoring - The University of Alaska Fairbanks Nanooks Women's Swimming Team
Representative(s) Carrick, Hannan

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Honoring - Rita Christianson
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) Stedman

In Memoriam - Dora Ann Fulmer
Representative(s) Carrick

In Memoriam - Roberta "Bobbi" Leichty
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) 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.

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 - Alaska State Ombudsman 50th Anniversary
Senator(s) Kiehl
Representative(s) Story, Hannan

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

Senator Cronk moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from 8:00 p.m. plane time, April 1 through 10:00 p.m. plane time, April 2. Without objection, Senator Cronk was excused.

Senator Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate return to Introduction of Guests. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Standing Committee Reports (continued)**SB 121**

The Health and Social Services Committee considered 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" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 121(HSS)

Signing no recommendation: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Hughes, Claman, Tobin. Signing do pass: Senator Giessel.

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

The bill was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., April 2, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:36 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

Apr 01	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ HJR 5	SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+ SB 129	PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	

EDUCATION

Mar 31	Monday	Davis 106	8:00 AM
+	-- Please Note Time & Location Change --		
	Meeting jointly with the House Education Committee		
	Presentation: The State of Education from the Field		
	Dr. Lisa Parady, Executive Director, Alaska		
	Council of School Administrators		
	Lori Rucksdashel, Principal, Chinook Elementary School		
	Rick Dormer, Principal, Ketchikan High School		
	Clayton Holland, Superintendent, Kenai		
	Peninsula Borough School District		
	Phil Hulett, School Finance Officer, Galena		
	City School District		
	Jennifer Schmitz, Director, Alaska Educator		
	Retention and Recruitment Center		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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EDUCATION (continued)

Apr 02	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: University of Alaska Board of Regents Karen Perdue - Fairbanks Christine Resler - Anchorage -- Public Testimony --		
+	SB 110 MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANTS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Apr 04	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

FINANCE

Mar 31	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: State Assessment Review Board - Sam Laffey -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+=	SB 57 APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Apr 01	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	SB 86 MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	SB 29 BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	SB 24 TOBACCO/NICOTINE/E-CIG AGE; E-CIG TAX -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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FINANCE (continued)

Apr 02	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development		
+ HB 56	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP <Pending Referral> Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Apr 03	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: State Debt Summary and Credit Review Department of Revenue		
= HB 56	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP <Pending Referral> Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Apr 04	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+ SB 146	REAA FUND: MT. EDGEcumbe, TEACHER HOUSING -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 22	FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 6	ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
= HB 56	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP <Pending Referral> Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Apr 01	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	-- Agenda Change --		
+ SB 134	PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER;3RD PARTY ADMIN -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+= SB 88	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 04/03/25> -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+= SJR 15	OPPOSE MEDICAID CUTS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (continued)

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Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
Brent Taylor, State Medical Board
-- Public Testimony --
Samantha Smith, State Medical Board
-- Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Apr 03	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	-- Agenda Change --		
+ = SB 134	PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER;3RD PARTY ADMIN		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 122	HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORK STANDARDS		
	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 04/01/25>		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Samantha Smith, State Medical Board		
+ = SB 45	MEDICAID MENTAL HEALTH PARITY		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:		
+ = SB 88	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH		

JUDICIARY

Mar 31	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Apr 02	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Dorene Lorenz, State Commission for Human Rights		
	Jessie Ruffridge, State Commission for Human Rights		
	Jedediah Cox, Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 90	MINOR MENTAL HEALTH: AGE OF CONSENT		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Apr 04	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Joan Wilson, Chief Administrative Law Judge -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 31	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 137	EXTEND BOARDS: MIDWIVES, NURSING, PAROLE -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 21	AK WORK & SAVE PROGRM; RETIRE. SAVINGS BD -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+= SB 28	RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT. -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

Apr 02	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 132	OMNIBUS INSURANCE BILL -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+= SB 133	INSURANCE; PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+= SB 4	HEALTH CARE PRICES AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

Apr 04	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 11	FLOOD INSURANCE -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+= SB 81	PUBLIC EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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RESOURCES

Mar 31	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ HJR 11	RECOGNIZING ALASKA/CANADA RELATIONSHIP		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Presentation: Fisheries Task Force Report		
+ SB 130	FISHERIES PROD DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 135	REFUND OF FISH BUSINESS TAX TO MUNIS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Apr 02	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 92	CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Apr 04	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 128	CREATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 112	OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 01	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	3:30 PM
	-- Please Note Location Change --		
	Meeting jointly with the House State Affairs		
	Committee		
+	Presentation: What is AIDEA and how does it benefit Alaskans?		
	Randy Ruaro, Executive Director of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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STATE AFFAIRS (continued)

Apr 03	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	3:30 PM
	-- Please Note Location Change --		
	Meeting jointly with the House State Affairs Committee		
+	Presentation: What is AMHTA and how does it benefit Alaskans?		
	Mary Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

TRANSPORTATION

Apr 01	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: AIDEA Update on Major Projects		
	Randy Ruaro, Executive Director		
	Jeff San Juan, Ambler Road Project Manager		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Apr 03	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	SB 138	TAXATION: VEHICLE RENTALS, SUBPOENAS	
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Presentation: Tribal Coordination		
	Shannon McCarthy, DOT&PF Communications Director		
	Sara Lucey, Transportation Planner		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Apr 15	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	2:00 PM
+	Overview: Department of Environmental Conservation Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out		

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HEALTH

Apr 03 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:45 AM**
+ Presentation: Division of Behavioral Health;
Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Apr 15 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:45 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Labor and Workforce
Development Senate Finance Subcommittee Close
Out

MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Apr 15 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:15 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Military and Veterans
Affairs Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out

NATURAL RESOURCES

Apr 15 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:30 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Natural Resources
Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Apr 02 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:45 AM**
+ FY26 DOT Operating Budget - AMHS

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Apr 03 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Alaska and International Arctic Politics
Mike Sfraga - Fmr. Ambassador-At-Large for
Arctic Affairs, United States Department of State
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mar 31 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
+ -- Please Note Location Change --
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ Agenda
I. Call to Order
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
a. March 12, 2025, Minutes
IV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events
a. Legislative Skits—April 26, 2025
V. Executive Session
a. Security Update
b. RFQ 667 Alaska State Capitol Security
Screener
VI. Committee Business
a. Capitol Visitor Screening Policy
b. Identification Badge Policy
VII. Adjourn
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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OTHER MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

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	Davis 106	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		