

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

May 16, 2025

One Hundred Sixteenth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:33 a.m.

The roll showed twenty members present.

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

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for this new day and for calling each Senator and their staff here, to accomplish your will today. I ask that you refresh and bless them and give them energy as they make decisions for Alaska.

Lord, Give them wisdom, discernment, and guidance so that success will come from their effort.

Your holy bible says,

“Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.” (Prov 11:14)

If wisdom is needed, you say to ask you and you will give it to those who ask.

As decisions that need to be made pass through their hands, I pray that you would give them wise counsel to make just decisions for our state.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

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Senator Wielechowski led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the one hundred fourteenth and one hundred fifteenth legislative days and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 9 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the House

HJR 5

Message dated May 14 was read stating the House concurred in the Senate amendment(s) to HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5, thus adopting:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5 am S 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.

HB 53

Message dated May 14 was read stating the Speaker granted limited powers of free conference to the House conferees considering:

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 53(FIN) am(brf sup maj fld)(efd fld) "An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; and making supplemental appropriations."

and

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 53(FIN) am S "An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date."

on the following specific points:

the appropriations and language that are not identical in the House and Senate versions of HB 53 and, in accordance with past practice and usage, authorizes the addition of the monetary terms of collective bargaining agreements for the following bargaining units:

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

Confidential Employees Association

Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific

HB 55

Message dated May 14 was read stating the Speaker granted limited powers of free conference to the House conferees considering:

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 55(FIN) "An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

and

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 55(FIN) am S "An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

on the following specific points:

the appropriations and language that are not identical in the House and Senate versions of HB 55 and, in accordance with past practice and usage, authorizes the addition of the monetary terms of collective bargaining agreements for the following bargaining units:

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

Confidential Employees Association

Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific

Message dated May 14 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

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First Reading and Reference of House Bills

HB 14

HOUSE BILL NO. 14 BY REPRESENTATIVES STAPP, Johnson, Schrage, entitled:

"An Act repealing programs for catastrophic illness assistance and medical assistance for chronic and acute medical conditions."

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

HB 73

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 73(FIN) BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to complex care residential homes; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

Concur Messages

SB 57

Concur message dated May 13 on CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 57(FIN) "An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations and other appropriations; making reappropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date" which had been read (page 1271), was before the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved the Senate concur in the House amendment(s).

The question being: "Shall the Senate concur in the House amendment(s)?" The roll was taken with the following result:

HCS CSSB 57(FIN) am H(efd fld H)
Shall the Senate Concur in the House Amendment(s)
to CSSB 57(FIN)?

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

and so, the Senate concurred in the House amendment(s), thus adopting HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 57(FIN) am H(efd fld H) "An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations, supplemental appropriations, reappropriations, and other appropriations; amending appropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; and repealing appropriations."

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

Standing Committee Reports

SB 132

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 132 "An Act relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN)

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

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

The bill is on today's calendar.

SB 156

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 156 "An Act relating to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; relating to the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain loans made by the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 156(FIN) "An Act relating to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; relating to the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain loans made by the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain commercial fishing loans; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 4, ch. 25, SLA 2024; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senators Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senator Kiehl. Signing no recommendation: Senator Olson, Cochair; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 2, Senate Finance Committee

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill is on today's calendar.

SB 159

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 159 "An Act increasing contributions to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the State Training and Employment Program."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair. Signing no recommendation: Senators Dunbar, Merrick, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

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The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 160

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 160 "An Act relating to the membership of the legislative council; and relating to the membership of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee."

Signing do pass: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senators Gray-Jackson, Yundt. Signing no recommendation: Senator Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 185

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 185 "An Act relating to the business of insurance; relating to exceptions to prohibited rebates; relating to the powers of the director of the division of insurance; relating to prohibited practices in the advertisement of insurance; and providing for an effective date."

Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senator Gray-Jackson. Signing do pass: Senator Yundt. Signing amend: Senator Dunbar.

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

The bill was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

HB 35

The Judiciary Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 35(STA) "An Act relating to the use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 35(JUD) "An Act relating to the use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners; and relating to identification cards."

(Title Change SCR 8)

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Signing do pass: Senator Claman, Chair; Senators Myers, Kiehl.
Signing no recommendation: Senator Tobin.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Corrections

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

HB 36

The Judiciary Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 36 "An Act relating to the placement of foster children in psychiatric hospitals; relating to the care of children in state custody placed in residential facilities outside the state; and amending Rule 12.1(b), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules of Procedure" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 36(JUD) "An Act relating to treatment foster homes; 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; relating to the placement of foster children in hospitals and residential psychiatric treatment centers for psychiatric care; relating to the duties of the Department of Family and Community Services; relating to the care of children in state custody placed in psychiatric residential treatment facilities outside the state; amending Rule 12.1(b), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules of Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

(Title Change SCR 10)

Signing do pass: Senator Claman, Chair; Senators Kiehl, Tobin.
Signing amend: Senator Myers.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Alaska Judiciary System
Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Family and Community Services

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HB 58

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 58 "An Act relating to the office of public advocacy; and relating to the public advocate."

Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senator Yundt.
Signing do pass: Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration
Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Alaska Judiciary System

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

HB 70

The Health and Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 70(L&C) am "An Act relating to emergency medical services for operational canines; relating to the powers, duties, and liability of emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 70(HSS) "An Act relating to emergency medical services for operational canines; relating to the powers, duties, and liability of emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; relating to civil liability of veterinarians; and providing for an effective date."

(Title Change SCR 9)

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

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

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HB 123

The Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 123(FIN) "An Act relating to vehicle rental taxes; relating to the issuance of subpoenas related to tax records; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL
NO. 123(FIN)

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, indeterminate, Department of Revenue

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

HJR 14

The Transportation Committee considered HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 Supporting the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and the Northern Rail Extension; supporting the increase in defensive capabilities at Fort Greely, Alaska; encouraging a renewed commitment by the Alaska Railroad to a community-minded approach to future rail expansion; and encouraging the development of critical Arctic infrastructure.

Signing no recommendation: Senator Tobin, Vice Chair; Senator Kiehl. Signing do pass: Senators Stedman, Shower.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, House Transportation Committee

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

HJR 25

The Education Committee considered HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25 am Supporting and encouraging the continued recruitment and retention of international educators on J-1 and H-1B visas in the state.

Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Cronk, Stevens, Kiehl.

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The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SCR 8

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8 BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,

Suspending Rules 24(c), 35, 41(b), and 42(e), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, concerning House Bill No. 35, relating to the use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners.

was read the first time and held on the Secretary's desk.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 195

SENATE BILL NO. 195 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY REQUEST, entitled:

"An Act relating to slow onset disasters; and relating to the Alaska Disaster Act."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of Senate Bills

SB 132

SENATE BILL NO. 132 "An Act relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

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Senator Hoffman, Cochair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Finance Committee Substitute offered today. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN) was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN) will advance to third reading on the May 17 calendar.

SB 156

SENATE BILL NO. 156 "An Act relating to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; relating to the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain loans made by the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Hoffman, Cochair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Finance Committee Substitute offered today. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 156(FIN) "An Act relating to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; relating to the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain loans made by the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain commercial fishing loans; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 4, ch. 25, SLA 2024; and providing for an effective date" was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 156(FIN) will advance to third reading on the May 17 calendar.

Third Reading of House Bills

HB 116

HOUSE BILL NO. 116 "An Act exempting from insurance regulation cooperative agreements entered into by two or more persons engaged in commercial fishing for the purpose of paying claims or losses" was read the third time.

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The question being: "Shall HOUSE BILL NO. 116 "An Act exempting from insurance regulation cooperative agreements entered into by two or more persons engaged in commercial fishing for the purpose of paying claims or losses" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

HB 116

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

and so, SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 116 passed the Senate, was signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House.

Citations

Honoring - Marci Ward

Representative(s) Tomaszewski, Stapp

Senator(s) Cronk

In Memoriam - Roy Velasco

Senator(s) Dunbar, Stevens

Representative(s) Stutes

In Memoriam - Dan Seavey

Senator(s) Bjorkman

Representative(s) Elam

In Memoriam - William "Bill" Ray Heard

Representative(s) Story, Hannan

Senator(s) Kiehl

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 154**

Senators Dunbar, Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 154 "An Act establishing the Home Care Employment Standards Advisory Board; relating to payment for personal care services; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements

Rule 23(d) of the Alaska State Legislature Uniform Rules is currently in effect.

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Enrollment**SB 47**

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 47(RES) "An Act relating to Chugach State Park; 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 3:50 p.m., May 15, 2025.

Memorandum from Division of Legal and Research Services, Legislative Affairs Agency, was received, reporting the following manifest error in CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 47(RES) which has been corrected in enrolling:

Page 1, line 7:

Delete "is"

Insert "are [IS]"

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., May 17, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:09 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

May 16	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
		-- MEETING CANCELED --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	
May 19	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	
May 21	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	
May 23	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
		No Meeting Scheduled	

FINANCE

May 16	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	HB 123	TAXATION: VEHICLE RENTALS, SUBPOENAS	
		-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	

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FINANCE (continued)

May 16	Friday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM	
-- MEETING CANCELED --				
-- Please Note Time Change --				
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled				
Streamed live on AKL.tv				
May 17	Saturday	Senate Finance 532	10:00 AM	
-- Please Note Time Change --				
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
+=	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**			

JUDICIARY

May 16	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM	
HB 58	OPA: PUBLIC ADVOCATE APPOINTMENT			
-- Invited & Public Testimony --				
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:			
+=	SB 190	UNIFORM ACT: GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP		
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --				
May 19	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM	
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
May 21	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM	
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
May 23	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM	
No Meeting Scheduled				

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LABOR & COMMERCE

May 16	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ =	HB 121	ACCOUNTING; PRACTICE PRIVILEGE -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+ =	SB 154	HOME CARE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADV BOARD -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:	
+ =	SB 62	BOARD OF PAROLE: MEMBERSHIP, REPORT -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+ =	SB 89	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE <Bill Hearing Canceled> **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

RESOURCES

May 16	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ =		Presentation: Alaska Railbelt Reliability Council Lou Florence - Board Chair, RRC Ed Jenkin - CEO, RRC Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

May 19	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ =		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

May 21	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ =		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

STATE AFFAIRS

May 17	Saturday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	10:00 AM
+ =		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

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JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

May 17	Saturday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	I. Call to Order		
	II. Approval of the Agenda		
	III. Approval of the Minutes		
	a. April 9, 2025		
	b. April 23, 2025		
	IV. Executive Session		
	a. Preliminary Release of the FY 24 State of Alaska Single Audit		
	V. Adjourn		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB53 AND HB55

May 16	Friday	Senate Finance 532	4:00 PM
+= HB 53	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP		
+= HB 55	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET		
	FY26 Operating Budget:		
	Department of Administration		
	Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development		
	Department of Corrections		
	Department of Education and Early Development		
	Department of Environmental Conservation		
	Department of Family and Community Services		
	Office of the Governor		
	Department of Labor and Workforce Development		
	Department of Law		
	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs		
	Department of Natural Resources		
	Department of Public Safety		
	Department of Transportation and Public Facilities		
	Judiciary		
	University of Alaska		
	Legislature		