

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Saturday

May 17, 2025

One Hundred Seventeenth 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 Yundt was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Greg White, First Baptist Church Juneau. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus' name. Lord,
I ask you to bless this session of the Alaska Senate,
particularly this day. Please order the thoughts of our
Senators. Bless the actions taken by our elected
leadership. I ask your anointing touch on this great
State of Alaska. Thank you for Senators willing to
bear the burden of elected leadership. I ask you Lord
to lighten their burden by placing your guiding hand
upon each of them. Please grace them with your
presence and divine leading as they seek to honor you
and all Alaskans. In the precious name of Jesus I
pray, Amen.

Senator Bjorkman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Senator Shower moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Yundt be excused from a call of the Senate today through the evening of May 18. Without objection, Senator Yundt was excused.

Messages from the House

SB 50

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House passed and returned:

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

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

SB 80

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House passed and returned:

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."

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

SB 96

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House passed and returned:

SENATE BILL NO. 96 "An Act relating to education tax credits for certain payments and contributions for child care and child care facilities; relating to the insurance tax education credit, the income tax education credit, the oil or gas producer education

credit, the property tax education credit, the mining business education credit, the fisheries business education credit, and the fisheries resource landing tax education credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of secs. 1, 2, and 21, ch. 61, SLA 2014; and providing for an effective date."

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

SB 97

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House passed and returned:

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."

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

SCR 7

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House passed and returned:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7 Suspending Rules 24(c), 35, 41(b), and 42(e), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, concerning House Bill No. 75, relating to national criminal history record checks for certain employees of the Department of Revenue; relating to allowable absences for eligibility for a permanent fund dividend; and relating to electronic notice of debt collection executed on a permanent fund dividend.

The resolution was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

HB 75

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House concurred in the Senate amendment(s) to CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 75(STA) "An Act relating to national criminal history record checks for certain employees of the Department of Revenue; relating to allowable absences for eligibility for a permanent fund dividend; relating to the confidentiality of certain information provided on a permanent fund dividend application; relating to electronic notice of debt collection executed on a permanent fund dividend; and providing for an effective date", thus adopting:

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 75(STA)
"An Act relating to national criminal history record checks for certain employees of the Department of Revenue; relating to allowable absences for eligibility for a permanent fund dividend; relating to electronic notice of debt collection executed on a permanent fund dividend; and providing for an effective date."
(Title Change SCR 7)

A Legislative Letter of Intent was attached.

Message dated May 16 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Bills**HB 23**

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 23(L&C) BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act renaming the State Commission for Human Rights the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to removal of commissioners of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to reports from the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to the definition of 'employer' for the purposes of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; and relating to local civil rights commissions."

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

HB 62

HOUSE BILL NO. 62 BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to sexual assault examination kits; establishing the sexual assault examination kit tracking system; and providing for an effective date."

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

Standing Committee Reports**SB 107**

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 107 "An Act establishing a violation for hindering the Alaska Sunset Commission; establishing the Alaska Sunset Commission to review, audit, and make recommendations on discontinuation of or changes to state entities; and relating to the powers and duties of the Alaska Sunset Commission" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 107(STA) "An Act establishing a violation for hindering the Alaska Sunset Commission; establishing the Alaska Sunset Commission to review, audit, and make recommendations on discontinuation of or changes to state entities and to review and make recommendations on discontinuation of or changes to tax credits; and relating to the powers and duties of the Alaska Sunset Commission."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Office of the Governor

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 154

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered 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."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HB 17

The State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 17 "An Act relating to retirement benefits and military service."

Signing amend: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senator Bjorkman. Signing no recommendation: Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, indeterminate, Department of Administration

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HB 58

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

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

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 Rules Committee.

HB 121

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 121 "An Act relating to the practice of accounting; and providing for an effective date" and recommended the adoption of the State Affairs Committee Substitute offered on page 1189.

Signing no recommendation: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Merrick, Gray-Jackson.

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

The bill is on today's calendar.

HJR 13

The State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13(MLV) Urging the President of the United States to expand evacuation efforts for applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas, including resumption of evacuation flights organized by the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts; urging the United States Department of State to secure legal protections and humanitarian assistance for Special Immigrant Visa applicants; urging the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the United States Department of Homeland Security to expedite the review of applications for Special Immigrant Visas; and requesting that the United States Secretary of State provide a report to Congress regarding efforts to reinstate evacuation flights for applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas.

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

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

HCR 6

The State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(MLV) Commemorating the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

Signing do pass: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson, Bjorkman.

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 9

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 BY THE SENATE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE,

Suspending Rules 24(c), 35, 41(b), and 42(e), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, concerning House Bill No. 70, relating to emergency medical services for operational canines; relating to the powers, duties, and liability of emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics; and relating to the practice of veterinary medicine.

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

SCR 10

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10 BY SENATOR CLAMAN,

Suspending Rules 24(c), 35, 41(b), and 42(e), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, concerning House Bill No. 36, 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.

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of House Bills

HB 121

HOUSE BILL NO. 121 "An Act relating to the practice of accounting; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Kawasaki, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the State Affairs Senate Committee Substitute offered on page 1189. Without objection, SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 121(STA) "An Act relating to the practice of accounting; relating to private professional conservators; amending Rule 17(e), Alaska Rules of Probate Procedure; and providing for an effective date" was adopted.

President Stevens stated SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 121(STA) will advance to third reading on the May 19 calendar.

Third Reading of Senate Bills

SB 132

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN) "An Act relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN) "An Act relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 132(FIN)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Yundt

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 156

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 read the third time.

The question being: "Shall 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" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 156(FIN)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Yundt

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 156(FIN) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Second Reading of House Resolutions**HJR 25**

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, was read the second time.

President Stevens stated HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25 am will advance to third reading on the May 19 calendar.

Special Order of Business

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the following Citation Calendar be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Citation Calendar

Honoring - Leeann Thomas
Senator(s) Kiehl
Representative(s) Hannan, Story

Honoring - Stephanie Madsen
Senator(s) Kiehl
Representative(s) Hannan, Story

Honoring - Michael Burke
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson, Claman
Representative(s) Josephson

Honoring - Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of
Alaska Emergency Response Team
Senator(s) Kiehl
Representative(s) Story, Hannan

Honoring - Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School Boys
Basketball Team 4A State Champions
Senator(s) Dunbar, Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mina

Honoring - Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School 2024 Softball
Team
Senator(s) Dunbar
Representative(s) Mears, Mina

Honoring - Jason Kohler
Senator(s) Dunbar
Representative(s) Mina, Eischeid

Honoring - The Anchorage Bucs
Senator(s) Dunbar
Representative(s) Josephson, Fields

Honoring - Reid Kornstad
Senator(s) Bjorkman
Representative(s) Elam

Honoring - Mike Crain
Senator(s) Bjorkman

Honoring - Sarah Angol
Representative(s) McCabe

In Memoriam - Jenny Wiagañmiu Irene Miller
Senator(s) Tobin, Gray-Jackson, Olson

In Memoriam - Ruth Ann Jennings
Senator(s) Tobin
Representative(s) Fields

In Memoriam - Helen Howarth
Senator(s) Dunbar

In Memoriam - Marjorie “Marge” Sappah
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Eischeid

In Memoriam - Samuel “Sam” Hamilton Rabung
Representative(s) Stutes, Hannan

In Memoriam - Daniel Bunker
Representative(s) Vance

In Memoriam - Henry “Hank” William Jebe
Representative(s) Story, Hannan
Senator(s) Kiehl

In Memoriam - Mel J. Personett II
Representative(s) Story, Hannan
Senator(s) Kiehl

In Memoriam - Jim Donaghey
Representative(s) Story, Hannan
Senator(s) Kiehl

In Memoriam - John Hagey
Representative(s) Carrick

In Memoriam - Constance “Connie” Burnett
Representative(s) Carrick

In Memoriam - Joan Forbes Koponen
Representative(s) Carrick

In Memoriam - Thomas Robert Healy
Representative(s) Johnson
Senator(s) Hughes

In Memoriam - Blaine Hartman
Representative(s) Stapp

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Citation Calendar be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

HJR 25

Senators Tobin, Giessel, Claman, Cronk, Olson, Dunbar, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on 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. Without objection, it was so ordered.

HCR 6

Senators Kawasaki, Tobin, Shower, Merrick, Bjorkman, Wielechowski, Olson, Kiehl, Gray-Jackson, Hughes, Myers, Kaufman, Claman, Stedman, Cronk, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(MLV) Commemorating the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Without objection, it was so ordered.

HJR 13

Senator Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cross sponsor on CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13(MLV) Urging the President of the United States to expand evacuation efforts for applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas, including resumption of evacuation flights organized by the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts; urging the United States Department of State to secure legal protections and humanitarian assistance for Special Immigrant Visa applicants; urging the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the United States Department of Homeland Security to expedite the review of applications for Special Immigrant Visas; and requesting that the United States Secretary of State provide a report to Congress regarding efforts to reinstate evacuation flights for applicants with approved Special Immigrant Visas. Without objection, it was so ordered.

HB 23

Senators Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 23(L&C) "An Act renaming the State Commission for Human Rights the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to removal of commissioners of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to reports from the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to the definition of 'employer' for the purposes of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; and relating to local civil rights commissions." Without objection, it was so ordered.

HB 121

Senators Myers, Kawasaki, Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on HOUSE BILL NO. 121 "An Act relating to the practice of accounting; 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.

Engrossment**SB 132**

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN) "An Act relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 156

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 engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., May 19, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:29 a.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

EDUCATION

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

FINANCE

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

May 19 +	Monday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
May 21 +	Wednesday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
May 23	Friday No Meeting Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM

LABOR & COMMERCE

May 19 + HB 70	Monday EMERGENCY MED SVCS; OPERATIONAL CANINES -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
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RESOURCES

May 19 +	Monday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
May 21 +	Wednesday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM

STATE AFFAIRS

May 17 + += SB 107 += SR 3 += HB 17 += HJR 13 += HCR 6	Saturday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled: ALASKA SUNSET COMMISSION SAMOAN SERVICE & VOTING RIGHTS DISABLED VETERANS: RETIREMENT BENEFITS AFGHANS, SP. IMMIGRANT VISAS, ASSISTANCE US MARINE CORPS 250TH BIRTHDAY **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	10:00 AM
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JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

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