

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

January 26, 2026

Seventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:01 a.m.

The roll showed nineteen members present. Senator Gray-Jackson was excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Father Patrick Casey, Co-Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The majestic beauty of our state reminds us that you are the source of all blessings. At the beginning of this new year and this legislative session I humbly ask for your blessing on all our legislators and all who collaborate in their work. Bestow on them the abundant share of your wisdom and a deep desire to share the common good. Amen.

Senator Kaufman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the Governor

Letter dated January 22 was read stating in accordance with Article III, Section 25 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 39.05.080, I submit the following department heads for confirmation:

Attorney General, Department of Law

Stephen Cox – Anchorage

Appointed: 8/29/2025

The appointment was referred to the State Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

John Crowther – Anchorage

Appointed: 12/1/2025

The appointment was referred to the Resources and Finance Committees.

In accordance with Article III, Sections 26 and 27 of the Alaska Constitution and Alaska Statute 39.05.080, I submit the following list of appointees for confirmation:

Alaska Judicial Council

John Wood – Willow

Appointed: 5/29/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2031

Commission on Judicial Conduct

Aldean Kilbourn – Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/1/2021

Term Expired: 7/9/2025

Reappointed: 7/9/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Donald McClintock III – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/1/2017

Term Expired: 3/1/2021

Reappointed: 3/1/2021

Term Expired: 7/9/2025

Reappointed: 7/9/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Jane Mores – Juneau

Appointed: 4/2/2019

Term Expired: 3/1/2020

Reappointed: 3/1/2020

Term Expired: 3/1/2024

Reappointed: 7/9/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

State Board of Parole

Steve Meyer – Kenai

Appointed: 3/1/2021

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2031

State Commission for Human Rights

Mary Salazar – Anchorage

Appointed: 10/13/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

Anna Cometa - Anchorage

Appointed: 5/30/2023

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Joel Hard – Palmer

Appointed: 11/12/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

The appointments were referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

Tammy Schultz – Homer

Appointed: 5/12/2023

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Jennifer McConnel – Girdwood

Appointed: 3/1/2023

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Anthony Ladd – Anchorage

Appointed: 11/5/2020

Term Expired: 3/10/2023

Reappointed: 3/10/2023

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Brian Zematis – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/11/2024 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Randall McLellan II – Wasilla

Appointed: 10/13/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**Dana Walukiewicz – Anchorage**

Appointed: 3/1/2020 Term Expired: 3/10/2023

Reappointed: 3/10/2023 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Board of Barbers and Hairdressers**Danielle Hager – Galena**

Appointed: 6/11/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2028

Board of Public Accountancy**Elizabeth Stuart – Anchorage**

Appointed: 3/1/2022 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers**McKenzie LaBuda – Wasilla**

Appointed: 11/1/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Veterinary Examiners**Ciara Vollaro – Wasilla**

Appointed: 3/1/2022 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council**Renee Alward – Homer**

Appointed: 3/1/2016 Term Expired: 3/1/2021

Reappointed: 3/1/2021 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2031

Marijuana Control Board

Daron Cooper – Anchorage

Appointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Ely Cyrus – Kiana

Appointed: 1/4/2022

Term Expires: 3/1/2023

Reappointed: 3/1/2023

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

The appointments were referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Tom McKay – Anchorage

Appointed: 1/22/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2027

Big Game Commercial Services Board

Brianna Hauch – North Pole

Appointed: 8/25/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

Larry Kunder – Anchorage

Appointed: 5/25/2022

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Robert Mumford – Anchorage

Appointed: 8/25/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

The appointments were referred to the Resources Committee.

Alaska Police Standards Council

Veronica Lambertsen – Bird Creek

Appointed: 8/25/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

The appointment was referred to the State Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Stacia Miller – Valdez

Appointed: 4/14/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Chiropractic Examiners

Edward Barrington – Anchorage

Appointed: 6/30/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Walter Campbell – Palmer

Appointed: 3/1/2010 Term Expired: 3/1/2014

Reappointed: 3/1/2014 Term Expired: 3/1/2018

Reappointed: 3/1/2022 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Dental Examiners

Travis Perkins – Soldotna

Appointed: 12/23/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2027

Board of Examiners in Optometry

Charles Rudstrom – Soldotna

Appointed: 5/22/2024 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Damien Delzer – Fairbanks

Appointed: 1/12/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2028

Kathleen Rice – Kenai

Appointed: 3/1/2022 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Massage Therapists

Annetta Atwell – North Pole

Appointed: 5/25/2022 Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026 Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Scherri Hoopes – Fairbanks

Appointed: 10/13/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Victoria Acree – North Pole

Appointed: 11/12/2025 Term Expires: 3/1/2029

Board of Nursing

Heather Crivello – Kodiak

Appointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Pharmacy

Rebekah Balmes – Anchorage

Appointed: 12/30/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

Board of Professional Counselors

Crystal Herring – Anchorage

Appointed: 9/19/2024

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners

Chad Scott – Wasilla

Appointed: 6/11/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

Board of Social Work Examiners

Ivy Villani – Wasilla

Appointed: 6/11/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

Eliza Ellsworth – Bethel

Appointed: 6/11/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Michelle Scott-Weber – Wasilla

Appointed: 3/1/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

The appointments were referred to the Health and Social Services and Labor and Commerce Committees.

Board of Education and Early Development

Pamela Dupras – Anchorage

Appointed: 7/7/2023

Term Expired: 3/1/2025

Reappointed: 9/29/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Professional Teaching Practices Commission

Michael Robbins – Ketchikan

Appointed: 11/6/2023

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

The appointments were referred to the Education Committee.

State Medical Board

Michael McNamara – Anchorage

Appointed: 11/20/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2026

Reappointed: 3/1/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2030

Norman Walker – Wrangell

Appointed: 12/30/2025

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

The appointments were referred to the Health and Social Services Committee.

The resumes for these appointments have been submitted to the Office of the Senate Secretary.

Messages from the House

Message dated January 23 was read stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Thirty-Fourth Alaska Legislature at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18 for the purpose of hearing United States Senator Dan Sullivan's annual address in the House Chamber.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate accept the House invitation to meet in Joint Session. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Communications

Disclosure letters received from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics in accordance with AS 24.60 will be published in Senate Journal Supplement No. 7 and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 12.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 226**

SENATE BILL NO. 226 BY SENATOR GIESSEL, entitled:

"An Act relating to the sale of homemade food."

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

SB 227

SENATE BILL NO. 227 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Multistate Tax Compact; relating to apportionment of income to the state; establishing a state sales and use tax; relating to taxes levied by cities and boroughs; relating to the corporate income tax; authorizing the Department of Revenue to enter into the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement or substantially similar agreement; relating to the oil and gas production tax; establishing an infrastructure maintenance surcharge on oil; establishing a pipeline corridor maintenance fund; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Revenue

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 23:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to a comprehensive fiscal plan.

For too long, Alaska's economic growth has been stymied by uncertainty and volatility. We are one of the few states that depend so heavily on a single commodity, subject to daily price swings, to fund state government. This bill is one part of a comprehensive fiscal plan to stabilize state finances, limit spending growth, share responsibility among Alaskans, major industries, and nonresidents, attract investment, and restore rules-based payment of the annual Permanent Fund Dividend.

Alaska needs a better path than a simple "tax-and-spend" approach: raising taxes just to support government growth. Alongside this bill, I am proposing a one-percent spending cap to rein in growth and avoid unnecessary increases in the burden on Alaskans. The plan also includes a Government Sunset and Reauthorization process designed to review agencies on a consistent schedule to measure their performance and determine if they are meeting the needs of Alaskans. Finally, one of the most important features of this plan is a proposed constitutional amendment to implement the 50/50 split between the Permanent Fund Dividend and funding state government operations, returning to a rules-based system for paying Alaskans' annual dividend.

This bill contains a seasonal sales tax set at four percent from April 1 to September 30, and at two percent from October 1 through March 31. All who benefit from Alaska's public services – residents, workers, and visitors – will share in supporting those services. The sales tax sunsets in 2034, as Alaska's fiscal position improves. The bill also temporarily raises the minimum tax floor for oil and gas production from four percent to six percent. It returns to four percent in 2032 or the calendar year following average daily throughput reaching 650,000 barrels per day. Additionally, this bill contains a \$0.15 per barrel surcharge to fund operations and maintenance costs

related to the Trans Alaska Pipeline Corridor. Finally, this bill implements a market-based sourcing rule for corporate income tax and the corporate income tax is eliminated in 2031. These changes are intended to encourage investment in Alaska.

Alaska has prosperous years ahead. Starting in Fiscal Year 2033, Alaska is projected to see higher revenue due to expected increases in pipeline throughput and the Alaska LNG Project. This comprehensive plan is designed to bridge the next seven years by stabilizing state finances, limiting spending growth, restoring a rules-based PFD, and sharing responsibility through targeted, time-limited revenue measures that support investment and predictability.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Unfinished Business

HB 17

Senator Raucher moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cross sponsor on HOUSE BILL NO. 17 "An Act relating to retirement benefits and military service." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction of Floor Staff

Senator Wielechowski, Rules Committee Chair, introduced the Chamber Staff of the second session of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature:

Sergeant at Arms

Matt Simpson, Big Lake

Assistant Sergeant at Arms

Jacob Pennell, Wasilla

**Introduction of Floor Staff
(continued)**

Senate Pages

Carrie Reynolds, Juneau
Evan Edgmon, Dillingham
Megan Harden, Kenai
Isabel Braun, Kenai
Mary Henderson, Kenai

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., January 28, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:22 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

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Jan 27	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ HB 33	CONFLICT OF INTEREST: BDS FISHERIES/GAME		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ HB 26	STATEWIDE PUBLIC & COMMUNITY TRANSIT PLAN		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

Jan 26	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Does a four-day school week benefit students?		
	Elizabeth Day, Assistant Director of Outreach, HEDCO Institute, University of Oregon		
	Sean Grant, Assistant Director of Research, HEDCO Institute, University of Oregon		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Jan 28	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 204	SUB. TEACHING; SCHOOL BOARD ELIGIBILITY		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Jan 30	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

SENATE JOURNAL

1548

January 26, 2026

FINANCE

Jan 26 +	Monday Governor's FY 27 Budget Request Office of Management and Budget **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
Jan 27 +	Tuesday Governor's Veto Overview/Discussion: Office of Management and Budget Department of Transportation and Public Facilities **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
Jan 28 +	Wednesday Overview: Governor's FY 27 Budget Request Legislative Finance Division **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
Jan 29	Thursday No Meeting Scheduled	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
Jan 30	Friday No Meeting Scheduled	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Jan 27 +	Tuesday Overview: Department of Family and Community Services Tracy Dompeling, Acting Commissioner Marian Sweet, Assistant Commissioner Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
Jan 29 +	Thursday Presentation: Rural Health Transformation Program Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner Betsy Wood, Associate Director, Office of Health Savings Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv*	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM

JUDICIARY

- Jan 26 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Jan 28 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**
 + SB 212 NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Jan 30 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

- Jan 26 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**
 += HB 78 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 170 GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Jan 28 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**
 += HB 78 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 198 PERS/TRS RETIREMENT & MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Jan 30 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**
 += HB 78 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 121 HEALTH INSURANCE ALLOWABLE CHARGES
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 163 REPEAL CERTAIN INACTIVE FUNDS/ACCOUNTS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

SENATE JOURNAL

1550

January 26, 2026

RESOURCES

Jan 26	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	-- Continued from 01/23/26 --		
+	Presentation: GaffneyCline: Key Issues and Recommendations by Nicholas Fulford, Senior Director, Liquid Natural Gas and Energy Transition, GaffneyCline Energy Advisory Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Jan 28	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Transportation: Impacts from a Gas Pipeline Project		
+= SB 180	LNG IMPORT FACILITIES		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Jan 30	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Natural Resources, North Slope Gas Presentation: Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

STATE AFFAIRS

Jan 27	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Overview: AIDEA update on current projects and external report		
	Randy Ruaro, Executive Director of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Jan 29	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

SENATE JOURNAL

January 26, 2026

1551

TRANSPORTATION

Jan 27 Tuesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM

+

Presentation: DOT&PF Winter Road Maintenance Update
Brad Bylsma, Equipment Fleet Manager, Statewide Equipment Fleet
Burrell Nickeson, Manager, Maintenance and Operations, Central Region
Andy Mills, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Jan 29 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM

No Meeting Scheduled

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Jan 29 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+

Presentation: Voice of the Arctic Inupiat
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Feb 11 Wednesday House Chamber 11:00 AM

+

State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice Susan Carney

Feb 18 Wednesday House Chamber 11:00 AM

+

Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Jan 29	Thursday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
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Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Rasmuson Foundation CEO Gretchen Guess will present about the Rasmuson Foundation's mission to invest in Alaska communities and nonprofits.
Sponsored by Senator Wielechowski