

# **SENATE JOURNAL**

## **ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**

### **THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**

#### **SECOND SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Wednesday**

**January 28, 2026**

**Ninth Day**

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

The roll showed twenty members present.

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 Kawasaki led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Certification**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journal for the seventh and eighth legislative days, Senate Journal Supplement No. 7 and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 12 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

SENATE JOURNAL

1556

January 28, 2026

**Communications**

The following reports are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Disabled Veteran Campsite Permit Report  
January 20, 2026  
in accordance with AS 41.21.026

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report  
in accordance with AS 18.56.200

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land and Water  
2026 Reports to the Alaska Legislature  
January 2026

Identified RS 2477 Rights-of-Way  
in accordance with AS 19.30.400

Availability of the Annual Mining Report  
in accordance with AS 27.05.060

Status of the Land Disposal Income Fund  
in accordance with AS 38.04.020

Status of Land in the Land Disposal Bank  
in accordance with AS 38.04.022

Water Removals and Exports  
in accordance with AS 46.15.020

Notification of Interim Classifications (Closing Land to  
Mineral Entry)  
in accordance with AS 38.05.300

SENATE JOURNAL

January 28, 2026

1557

Cooperative Resource Management or Development Agreements  
in accordance with AS 38.05.027

Efforts to Maintain or Enhance Access to and Along Fishing Streams  
in accordance with AS 38.04.205

Aquatic Farm Leasing  
in accordance with AS 38.05.035

Carbon Management Purpose Leasing  
in accordance with AS 38.05.081

**Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**

**SB 228**

SENATE BILL NO. 228 BY SENATOR RAUSCHER, entitled:

"An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to public education; and relating to opioid abuse awareness and prevention."

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

**SB 229**

SENATE BILL NO. 229 BY SENATOR RAUSCHER, entitled:

"An Act relating to certain reports required by the Alaska Public Offices Commission; and relating to the use of campaign contributions held by a candidate or group."

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

SENATE JOURNAL

1558

January 28, 2026

**Consideration of the Calendar**

**Citations**

Honoring – The Alaska Permanent Fund 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Senator(s) Stevens

Representative(s) Edgmon

Honoring – The League of Women Voters of Anchorage 75<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

Representative(s) Eischeid, Hall

Honoring – Hmong American Veterans Day

Representative(s) Fields, Eischeid, D. Nelson

In Memoriam – Raymond “Ray” Lee

Representative(s) Fields, Galvin

Senator(s) Merrick

In Memoriam – Marilyn Delores Fly

Senator(s) Gray-Jackson, Wielechowski

Representative(s) Mears

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 5**

Senator Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as prime sponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 5 "An Act relating to group insurance coverage and self-insurance coverage for school district employees, employees of the University of Alaska, and employees of other governmental units in the state; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 197**

Senator Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as prime sponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 197 "An Act relating to mathematics education; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; and relating to the duties of school districts." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 203**

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 203 "An Act relating to the definition of 'prohibited weapon.'" Without objection, it was so ordered.

**Introduction of Senate Staff**

Senator Wielechowski, Rules Committee Chair, introduced the Senate Secretary's Office staff:

Nichole Bearden, Deputy Senate Secretary

Colin Peacock, Deputy Senate Secretary

Johanna Crossett, Deputy Senate Secretary

Catherine Hatch, Deputy Senate Secretary

Max Goldrich, Deputy Senate Secretary

Keira Alkema, Deputy Senate Secretary, Office Manager

Liz Clark, Senate Secretary

Senator Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on February 4. Without objection, Senator Bjorkman was excused.

**SB 227**

President Stevens added a Resources Committee referral to SENATE BILL NO. 227 "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."

The bill was referred to the Resources, then Finance Committees.

SENATE JOURNAL

1560

January 28, 2026

**Announcements**

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

**Adjournment**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., January 30, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Liz Clark  
Secretary of the Senate

## SENATE JOURNAL

January 28, 2026

1561

### 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

<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+ SB 204	SUB. TEACHING; SCHOOL BOARD ELIGIBILITY		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

---

### FINANCE

<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+	Overview: Governor's FY 27 Budget Request		
	Legislative Finance Division		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		
<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

## SENATE JOURNAL

1562

January 28, 2026

### HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	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**		

---

### JUDICIARY

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

<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

---

### LABOR & COMMERCE

<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
+=	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**		

<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
+=	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

January 28, 2026

1563

### RESOURCES

<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	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**		
<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	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

<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

---

### TRANSPORTATION

<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

---

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
+	Presentation: Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

SENATE JOURNAL

1564

January 28, 2026

**OTHER MEETINGS**

**JOINT SESSION**

<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+		State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice Susan Carney	
<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+		Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator	

---

**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	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		