

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.

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

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.

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring – The Alaska Permanent Fund 50th Anniversary

Senator(s) Stevens

Representative(s) Edgmon

Honoring – The League of Women Voters of Anchorage 75th 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.

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

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

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		

FINANCE

Jan 28	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: Governor's FY 27 Budget Request		
	Legislative Finance Division		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Jan 29	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

Jan 30	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Jan 29 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+
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

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 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

RESOURCES

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

TRANSPORTATION

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 Iñupiat Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

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

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Jan 29	Thursday 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	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
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