

**SENATE JOURNAL**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Monday**

**February 2, 2026**

**Fourteenth Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:00 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Fred LaPlante, Juneau Church of the Nazarene. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Today, I ask that You grant these Senators of the great State of Alaska Your wisdom. They have been entrusted with leading the people of our state toward better days, and they face many challenges along the way. Give them grace and strength as they work through those challenges and guide them as they seek paths that serve the common good.

Remind us that we are stronger when our differing perspectives are woven together for the good of all Alaskans and for a stronger future. And help me, and all who observe their work, to be encouragers rather than cynical critics as they carry out the demanding task of legislating.

Be with each of these Senators today, meeting them at their point of need. In Jesus' name, I pray

Amen.

Senator Merrick led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Certification**

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

### **Messages from the House**

Message dated January 30 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

### **First Reading and Reference of House Bills**

#### **HB 93**

HOUSE BILL NO. 93 BY REPRESENTATIVES HIMSCHOOT, Hannan, Burke, Saddler, Josephson, Bynum, entitled:

"An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Judiciary and Resources Committees.

### **Communications**

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

Department of Public Safety  
Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU)  
2025 Annual Drug Report  
in accordance with AS 18.65.085

Department of Health  
Department of Corrections  
Recidivism Reduction Joint Annual Report  
FY 2025  
in accordance with AS 47.38.100

Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)  
Annual Financial Report  
FY 2025  
in accordance with AS 19.65.070

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Alaska Minerals Commission  
2026 Annual Report  
January 2026  
in accordance with AS 44.33.431

Local Boundary Commission  
2025 Annual Report to the Legislature  
in accordance with AS 44.33.812

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **HB 78**

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78(FIN) am(efd fld) "An Act relating to the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; and providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO.  
78(L&C) "An Act relating to the public employees'  
retirement system and the teachers' retirement system;  
providing certain employees an opportunity to choose  
between the defined benefit and defined contribution  
plans of the public employees' retirement system and the  
teachers' retirement system; and providing for an  
effective date."  
(technical title change)

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson. Signing amend: Senator Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:  
Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Administration

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

### **Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**

#### **SB 230**

SENATE BILL NO. 230 BY SENATOR RAUSCHER, entitled:

"An Act relating to the boundaries of the Jonesville  
Public Use Area; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Community and Regional  
Affairs and Resources Committees.

### **Consideration of the Calendar**

#### **Citations**

Honoring – Major Anthony April  
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson  
Representative(s) Kopp

Honoring – Steve Ribuffo  
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

Honoring – The 2026 Alaska Business Hall of Fame Laureates  
Senator(s) Claman, Costello

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 167**

President Stevens added a Finance Committee referral to SENATE BILL NO. 167 "An Act relating to a permanent fund dividend for an individual whose conviction has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed; and relating to the calculation of the value of the permanent fund dividend by including payment to individuals eligible for a permanent fund dividend because of a conviction that has been vacated, reversed, or dismissed."

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

**Select Committee on Legislative Ethics - Ratification**

Letter dated January 20 was received from Susan M. Carney, Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court (page 1568), stating in accordance with AS 24.60.130, the following public member has been nominated to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

Deborah Fancher

Senator Giessel moved Deborah Fancher be ratified as a public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Deborah Fancher be ratified as a public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Deborah Fancher be ratified as a public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

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

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Rauscher, Stedman, Stevens, Tilton, Wielechowski, Yundt

Excused: Tobin

and so, Deborah Fancher was ratified by the Senate.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Letter dated January 9 was received from Susan M. Carney, Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court (page 1568), stating in accordance with AS 24.60.131, the following alternate public member has been nominated to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

Chase Berenson

Senator Giessel moved Chase Berenson be ratified as an alternate public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Chase Berenson be ratified as an alternate public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Chase Berenson be ratified as an alternate public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

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

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Rauscher, Stedman, Stevens, Tilton, Wielechowski, Yundt

Excused: Tobin

and so, Chase Berenson was ratified by the Senate.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

### **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., February 4, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:20 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

<b>Feb 03</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
+ SB 129	PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS		
+ HB 26	STATEWIDE PUBLIC & COMMUNITY TRANSIT PLAN		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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### EDUCATION

<b>Feb 02</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

<b>Feb 04</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+ SB 204	SUB. TEACHING; SCHOOL BOARD ELIGIBILITY		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SR 4	250TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

<b>Feb 06</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+ SB 210	INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

**FINANCE**

<b>Feb 02</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+	Overview: Alaska Marine Highway Overview by Department of Public Transportation and Public Facilities Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Feb 03</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+= SB 34	REPEAL 90 DAY SESSION LIMIT		
+= SB 20	CPR CURRICULUM		
+ SB 104	VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled -- Public Testimony <2 minute limit> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Feb 04</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+	Overview: Governor's FY 2026 Supplemental Overview by Office of Management and Budget Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Feb 05</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+	Presentation: Savings, Reserves, and Investments Funds by Department of Revenue Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Feb 06</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

<b>Feb 03</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	Overview: Department of Health & H.R.1: Medicaid and SNAP Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bob Lawrence, Chief Medical Officer Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		



**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
(continued)**

**Feb 05 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**  
 + HB 27 MEDICAL MAJOR EMERGENCIES  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**JUDICIARY**

**Feb 02 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

**Feb 04 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 06 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
 += SB 190 UNIFORM ACT: GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

**Feb 02 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**  
 += SB 170 GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 + SB 211 EXTEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 += SB 81 PUBLIC EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 04 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**  
 + SB 150 NET METERING PROGRAM & FUND  
 <Bill Hearing Canceled>  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 + SB 218 TAX: ELECTRIC COOPS/GENERATION/STORAGE  
 <Bill Hearing Canceled>  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)**

**Feb 06      Friday      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)      1:30 PM**  
 += SB 211 EXTEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 + SB 225 TRUSTS; TRUST PROCEEDINGS; TRUSTEES  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 += SB 198 PERS/TRS RETIREMENT & MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**RESOURCES**

**Feb 02      Monday      Butrovich 205      3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Comments from North Slope  
 Producers  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 04      Wednesday      Butrovich 205      3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Regulatory Commission of Alaska,  
 CH 11 SLA 13 Authority  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 06      Friday      Butrovich 205      3:30 PM**  
 += SB 180 LNG IMPORT FACILITIES  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 + SB 227 TAX COMPACT; SALES TAX; OIL & GAS TAX  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**STATE AFFAIRS**

**Feb 03      Tuesday      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)      3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: 2025 Fire Suppression update by  
 Norm McDonald, Deputy Directory Forestry  
 Presentation: Disaster Preparedness by  
 Bryan Fisher, Director Alaska Division of  
 Homeland Security

**STATE AFFAIRS (continued)**

+ SB 188 TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

**Feb 05 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**  
 += SB 188 TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**Feb 03 Tuesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Department of Transportation  
 Proposed Organizational Changes by  
 Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner, Katherine  
 Keith, PMP, PMI-ACP, Deputy Commissioner  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 05 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
 += SB 191 TRANSFER OF RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER  
 -- Public Testimony --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS**

**Feb 05 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

<b>Feb 05</b> +	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b>
	I. Call to Order		
	II. Approval of the Agenda		
	III. Approval of the Minutes		
	a. November 19, 2025 – morning meeting		
	b. November 19, 2025 – afternoon meeting		
	c. January 20, 2026		
	IV. Committee Business		
	a. Top Audit Issues, Part 2		
	b. Consideration of Contract Amendment for Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP)		
	V. Executive Session		
	a. Consideration of Contract Amendment for Outside Counsel for Personnel Matter		
	b. GaffneyCline, Conflict of Interest: Legal Analysis		
	VI. Adjourn		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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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		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

<b>Feb 23</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	Lunch & Learn Presentation:		
	Alaska Trucking Industry		
	Alaska Trucking Association		
	Sponsored by Senator Myers		

**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**  
**(continued)**

<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
	Lunch & Learn Presentation:		
	An overview of Alaska's Workforce Future		
	Mariko (Mari) Selle Executive Director of the		
	Alaska Workforce Alliance		
	Sponsored by Senator Merrick		