

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

February 6, 2026

Eighteenth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:33 a.m.

The roll showed fifteen members present. Senators Cronk, Hoffman, Olson, Stedman were excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Yundt was absent.

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

Father, I begin this day with gratitude for the willingness of these Senators to serve and for the responsibility they have accepted on behalf of the people of Alaska.

As they carry forward the work entrusted to them, grant them vision - to see not only the decisions before them today, but the longer story they are now part of. Give them clarity in thought and conversation, courage to seek the common good, and humility to listen well and lead with grace.

May the lessons of the past guide their work and may respect for differing perspectives strengthen what they build together. Give them focus and wisdom for the tasks that remain today.

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And as this week draws to a close, prepare a season of rest for them - renewing their strength, restoring their perspective, and readying them for the work ahead.

Be with each of these Senators throughout this day.
In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Senator Rauscher led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journal for the sixteenth and seventeenth legislative days and Senate Journal Supplement No. 8 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

A letter dated February 4 was read stating a need to extend the 2025 West Coast Storm Disaster emergency and requesting a concurrent legislative resolution as required by AS 26.23.020. The letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

Communications

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

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Nonresidents Working in Alaska 2024
February 2026
in accordance with AS 36.10.130

Department of Health
FY 2026 Operating Grants
in accordance with AS 18.25.110

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Alaska Court System

2025 Travel and Compensation Report
in accordance with AS 22.20.037

Annual Report FY 2025
in accordance with AS 22.20.310

Statistical Report FY 2025
in accordance with AS 22.20.310

Alaska Task Force for the Regulation of Psychedelic Medicines
Final Recommendations Report

June 2025

in accordance with Chapter No. 60, SLA 2024

Standing Committee Reports

SB 191

The Transportation Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 191 "An Act approving the transfer of land owned by the Alaska Railroad Corporation to the City of Whittier; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Rauscher, Kiehl, Tobin.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

SR 4

The Education Committee considered SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4 Recognizing and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America; encouraging participation in commemorative events; and encouraging educational institutions to enhance civics education.

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Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Yundt, Bjorkman, Stevens, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

Senator Kawasaki, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4 Recognizing and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America; encouraging participation in commemorative events; and encouraging educational institutions to enhance civics education be waived from the State Affairs Committee. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The bill is on today's calendar.

Senator Myers, Acting Minority Leader, moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Yundt be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Yundt was excused.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions**

SJR 24

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24 BY THE SENATE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS,

Recognizing and honoring the relationship between the state and Greenland; and recognizing the importance of cooperation between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark in the Arctic.

was read the first time and referred to the Special Committee on Arctic Affairs and Resources Committee.

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Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 235

SENATE BILL NO. 235 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to municipal regulation of automated traffic safety cameras."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of Senate Resolutions

SR 4

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4 Recognizing and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America; encouraging participation in commemorative events; and encouraging educational institutions to enhance civics education, was read the second time and was before the Senate on final passage.

Senators Kawasaki, Merrick, Wielechowski, Dunbar moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on the resolution. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The question being: "Shall SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4 Recognizing and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America; encouraging participation in commemorative events; and encouraging educational institutions to enhance civics education, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SR 4

Second Reading

Final Passage

YEAS: 15 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 5 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Rauscher, Stevens, Tilton, Tobin, Wielechowski

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Excused: Cronk, Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, Yundt

and so, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment and enrollment.

Citations

In Memoriam – Balin Miller
Representative(s) Johnson

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citation be adopted. Without objection, the citation was adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

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

Special Order of Business

In Memoriam – Johnnie Ticket Sr.
Representative(s) Frier, Foster
Senator(s) Olson

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citation be adopted. Without objection, the citation was adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

SB 147

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 147 "An Act relating to the prescription and administration of drugs and devices by pharmacists; relating to reciprocity for pharmacists; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

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Senator Rauscher moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from 5:00 p.m., March 5 to 10:00 a.m., March 9. Without objection, Senator Rauscher was excused.

HB 173

Senator Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cross sponsor on CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 173(L&C) "An Act relating to occupational therapist licensure; relating to occupational therapy assistant licensure; and relating to an occupational therapist licensure compact." Without objection, it was so ordered.

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 9, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

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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

Feb 10	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 200	FARM & AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENTS		
	-- Public Testimony --		
+= SB 192	EVACUATION DESIGNATION LEVELS		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:		
+ SB 191	TRANSFER OF RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

Feb 06	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+ SB 210	INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 09	Monday	Davis 106	8:00 AM
	-- Please Note Time & Location Change --		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Meeting jointly with the House Education Committee		
	Presentation: Testimony from Alaska's public schools by school board members and students participating in the annual fly-in of the Association of Alaska School Boards		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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EDUCATION (continued)

Feb 11	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Overview: Status Update of the Mount Edgecumbe High School by Deena Bishop, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development		
	Karen Morrison, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development		
	David Langford, Superintendent, Mount Edgecumbe High School		
	Advisory Board Member		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Mount Edgecumbe High School		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 13	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE

Feb 06	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Feb 09	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: PERS/TRS Update Overview		
	Division of Retirement and Benefits		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 09	Monday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	HB 78 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 10	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Alaska Mental Health Trust		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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FINANCE (continued)

Feb 11	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+ SB 213	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP		
+ SB 215	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET CS Zero Overview: Veto of Repealed Appropriations Legislative Legal Services Presentation: Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 11	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+ SB 140	FIRE STATION GRANT PROGRAM -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 23	CIVICS EDUCATION -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SJR 2	CONST. AM: VOTES NEEDED FOR VETO OVERRIDE -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 12	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Rural Health Transformation Program Alaska Department of Health Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 12	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
+	-- Please Note Time Change -- Presentation: Mt Edgecumbe Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 13	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	No Meeting Scheduled Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 10	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Guidehouse: Medicaid Rate Review by Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health Coy Jones, Project Director, Guidehouse Claire Payne, Behavioral Health Lead, Guidehouse		
+	SB 206 SCHOOL SUICIDE POLICIES; FIREARM STORAGE -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 12	Thursday	Davis 106	3:30 PM
+	-- Please Note Location Change -- Meeting jointly with House Health and Social Services Presentation: The Alaska Rural Health Transformation Program: An informational session to support implementation and participation Monique Martin, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Nancy Merriman, Alaska Primary Care Association Jared Kosin, Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

JUDICIARY

Feb 06	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+=	SB 190 UNIFORM ACT: GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 09	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	HB 101 CRIMES AGAINST MINORS; AGE CONSENT TO 18 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Feb 11	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission Annual Report Overview by Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council		
Feb 13	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

LABOR & COMMERCE

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**		
Feb 09	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 121	HEALTH INSURANCE ALLOWABLE CHARGES -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- <Above Item Removed from Agenda>		
+= SB 81	PUBLIC EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 11	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Overview: Alaska's Agriculture Industry by Amy Seitz, Alaska Farm Bureau Margaret Adsit, Alaska Farmland Trust Rachel Longacre, DNR Division of Mining, Land & Water -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

Feb 13	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 196	BEH. HEALTH CRISIS SURCHARGE & FUND	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+ SB 225	TRUSTS; TRUST PROCEEDINGS; TRUSTEES	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

RESOURCES

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		
Feb 09	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 180	LNG IMPORT FACILITIES	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 11	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Alaska Railroad Corporation by Bill O'Leary - President, CEO, Alaska Railroad		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 13	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 158	COOK INLET: NEW ADMIN AREA	-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 10	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	DOC - Update on Lawsuits & Casualties from 2025		
+= SB 126	CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; PLACEMENT		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+= SB 71	PRETRIAL SERVICES SUPERVISION AGRMNTS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 12	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= SB 126	CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; PLACEMENT		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+= SB 71	PRETRIAL SERVICES SUPERVISION AGRMNTS		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 203	PROHIBITED WEAPONS/FIREARM CONVERT DEVICE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 10	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Feb 12	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Overview: Cascade Point Project by Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith, Alaska Marine Highway System Director, Craig Tornga, and Southcoast Region Director, Chris Goins -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 12	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Extension, UAF by Jodie Anderson - Director, Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Extension, UAF Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

JOINT COMMITTEES

JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Feb 11	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Presentation: Comments on "ready to deploy" orders by Professor Dan Maurer Presentation: Military Defense Legislative Priorities by Tammie L. Perreault Presentation: Alaska Defense Forum by Brittany Smart -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Feb 11	Wednesday	Adams 519	5:15 PM
+	-- Teleconference <Listen Only> -- AGENDA:		
+	I. Call to Order		
+	II. Approval of the Agenda		
+	IV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events		
	a. Juneau Animal Rescue 2026 Fundraiser		
	b. Juneau Dance Theater 2026 Fundraiser		

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (continued)

- + V. Committee Business
 - a. Capitol Snow Removal Contract Amendment
 - b. Legislature Independent Audit FY25
 - c. Legislative Council FY27 Budget Proposal
- VI. Executive Session
 - a. RFQ 692—Senate and House Finance Committee Rooms Carpet Purchase (Pending Procurement Evaluation)
- b. Executive Order 137 State Supreme Court Litigation Costs

+ VII. Adjourn

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		
Mar 31	Tuesday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+	Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Feb 10	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	6:00 PM
+	Presentation: Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program by Leah Van Kirk, Health Care Policy Advisory, Alaska Department of Health		

Tony Newman, Director, Division of Senior and Disability Services, Alaska Department of Health

Presentation: Infant Learning Program Expansion Amy Simpson, Executive Director, Programs for

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Infants and Children

Heidi Haas, Executive Director, Alaska Center for Children and Adults

Rich Saville, Education and Early Intervention Coordinator, Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Invited testimony from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 23	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Trucking Industry Alaska Trucking Association Sponsored by Senator Myers		
Feb 24	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: AWAIC: Abused Women's Aid in Crisis Services Provided by AWAIC and Statewide Impact Randi Beager, Executive Director, AWAIC Sponsored by Senator Tobin		
Feb 25	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	10:30 AM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: An overview of Alaska's Workforce Future Mariko (Mari) Selle Executive Director of the Alaska Workforce Alliance Sponsored by Senator Merrick		