

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

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Monday**

**February 23, 2026**

**Thirty-fifth 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 Dunbar was excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Greg Weinert, Emmanuel Baptist Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

God, my magnificent Creator, I praise you for our state, its people, its spirit, its beauty, and its bounty.

I come with humble heart, seeking your presence and guidance. The words spoken by this assembly reverberate throughout the state and impact every Alaskan. May those voices echo your word, Lord, exuding respect, charity, grace and innovation, throughout this session.

As I reflect on the past and look forward to the future, I acknowledge Your hand in all that is good and holy. I humbly seek your grace and forgiveness for past transgressions and the strength to redress them. While I take pride in many aspects of our history, I recognize that nothing substantive has been accomplished without Your will. Therefore, let me focus on the future, following Your path, Father.

In this solemn moment, I turn to hope, a beacon that guides me. Hope rooted in your eternal promise and unwavering love renews my resolve. Help me rejoice in the hope before me and the wonders you have planned as I seek your will. Impart the comfort of hope in all present in this chamber and throughout our great state.

This I humbly petition, not to our glory, Lord, but to You and You alone. I pray in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Senator Claman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Certification**

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

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **SB 211**

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 211 "An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Professional Counselors; extending the termination date of the Board of Marital and Family Therapy; extending the termination date of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners; extending the termination date of the Real Estate Commission; extending the termination date of the Board of Social Work Examiners; and providing for an effective date" and recommended the adoption of the Labor and Commerce Committee Substitute offered on page 1641.

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

**HB 62**

The Finance Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 62 "An Act relating to sexual assault examination kits; establishing the sexual assault examination kit tracking system; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senators Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Kiehl. Signing no recommendation: Senator Olson, Cochair.

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

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**

**SB 255**

SENATE BILL NO. 255 BY SENATOR YUNDT, entitled:

"An Act relating to the selection and conveyance of municipal general grant lands; providing for the transfer of real property to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 256**

SENATE BILL NO. 256 BY SENATOR MYERS, entitled:

"An Act relating to the recognition of EMS personnel licensure interstate compact; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 257**

SENATE BILL NO. 257 BY SENATOR CRONK, entitled:

"An Act relating to funding for residential schools;  
and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 258**

SENATE BILL NO. 258 BY SENATOR KIEHL, entitled:

"An Act relating to contracts for the licensing of  
software applications."

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

**SB 259**

SENATE BILL NO. 259 BY SENATOR BJORKMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to an optional municipal limit to  
increases of the full and true value of property owned  
and occupied as a permanent place of abode by a  
resident."

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

**SB 260**

SENATE BILL NO. 260 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to workers' compensation insurance  
certificates."

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

**SB 261**

SENATE BILL NO. 261 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to the issuance of certified copies of birth certificates to unhoused young adults; and relating to the issuance of identification cards to unhoused young adults."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Finance Committees.

**SB 262**

SENATE BILL NO. 262 BY SENATOR BJORKMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to social media and minors; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 263**

SENATE BILL NO. 263 BY SENATOR KAUFMAN, entitled:

"An Act repealing the child care facility revolving loan fund; repealing the child care facility revolving loan fund foreclosure expense account; repealing the child care facility revolving loan fund program; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 264**

SENATE BILL NO. 264 BY SENATOR KAUFMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to the housing assistance loan program; repealing the home ownership assistance fund; repealing the operating loss reserve account; repealing the restricted title loss reserve account; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 265**

SENATE BILL NO. 265 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to the duty of an operator immediately after an accident."

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

**SB 266**

SENATE BILL NO. 266 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to reimbursement for non-network health insurance claims."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Health and Social Services Committees.

**SB 267**

SENATE BILL NO. 267 BY SENATOR BJORKMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to powers and duties of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee; relating to public school financial information and audits; and establishing a public school financial data Internet website."

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

**SB 268**

SENATE BILL NO. 268 BY SENATOR STEVENS, entitled:

"An Act relating to minimum paid sick leave requirements for individuals employed in seafood processing."

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

**SB 269**

SENATE BILL NO. 269 BY SENATOR HOFFMAN, entitled:

"An Act restructuring the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 270**

SENATE BILL NO. 270 BY SENATOR BJORKMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to grand juries; amending Rules 5(e), 6, and 6.1, Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure; repealing Rules 6.1(b)(2) and (3), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

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

**SB 271**

SENATE BILL NO. 271 BY SENATOR RAUSCHER, entitled:

"An Act relating to abortion; relating to civil enforcement of abortion laws; relating to abortion after the detection of a fetal heartbeat; and amending Rules 3 and 82, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 508, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Judiciary Committees.

**Consideration of the Calendar**

**Citations**

Honoring – Peter Kaiser  
Senator(s) Hoffman  
Representative(s) Jimmie

In Memoriam – Donald Leroy Edwards  
Representative(s) Allard

In Memoriam – Laurence “Larry” N. Graham  
Senator(s) 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**

Senator Kaufman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from 1:00 p.m. plane time, February 26 through 1:00 p.m. plane time, March 1. Without objection, Senator Kaufman was excused.

### **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 25, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Liz Clark  
Secretary of the Senate



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**FINANCE**

- Feb 23 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**  
 + Presentation: Responses to Committee  
 Questions/Budget Amendments Overview/Fiscal  
 Summary by Legislative Finance Division
- + HB 62 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING  
 += SB 69 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING  
 += SB 211 EXTEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 23 Monday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**  
 -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 -- Please Note Time Change --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 24 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**  
 + HB 194 APPROVE MARATHON PETRO ROYALTY OIL SALE  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 167 CRIM. CONV. OVERTURNED: RECEIVE PAST PFD  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 170 GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 24 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**  
 -- Please Note Time Change --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 25 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**  
 + Overview: Alaska Permanent Fund Performance by  
 Callan Associates  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 25 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**  
 -- Please Note Time Change --
- + HB 289 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL  
 <Pending Referral>  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**Feb 26            Thursday                    Senate Finance 532            9:00 AM**  
+            Public Testimony: Juneau, Southeast, Prince William Sound,  
             Kodiak, Offnets Please Sign Up by 10:15 AM  
+= SB 213    APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+    SB 214    APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= SB 215    APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= HB 289    APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL  
             <Pending Referral>  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
             Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
             \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 26            Thursday                    Senate Finance 532            1:30 PM**  
-- Please Note Time Change --  
+            Public Testimony for Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik,  
             Unalaska, Dillingham, Offnets Please Sign Up by 2:45 PM  
+= SB 213    APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= SB 214    APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= SB 215    APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= HB 289    APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL  
             <Pending Referral>  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
             Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
             \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 27            Friday                        Senate Finance 532            9:00 AM**  
+            Public Testimony for Fairbanks, Interior,  
             Copper River Valley, Offnets  
             Please Sign Up by 9:45 AM  
+= SB 213    APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= SB 214    APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= SB 215    APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
+= HB 289    APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL  
             <Pending Referral>  
             -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
             Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
             \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

- Feb 27 Friday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**  
 + Public Testimony for Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Kenai Peninsula  
 Please Sign Up by 2:45 PM
- + SB 213 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP  
 -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --
- + SB 214 APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP  
 -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --
- + SB 215 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET  
 -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --
- + HB 289 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL  
 <Pending Referral>  
 -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

- Feb 24 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**  
 Presentation: Mental Health Trust Authority:  
 Update and Overview of Grant Programs
- + SB 206 SCHOOL SUICIDE POLICIES; FIREARM STORAGE  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

- Feb 26 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Facing Foster Care in Alaska  
 Amanda Metivier  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**JUDICIARY**

- Feb 23 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Alaska Criminal Justice Data  
 Analysis Commission 2025 Annual Report by  
 Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director, Alaska  
 Judicial Council
- + SB 251 REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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**JUDICIARY (continued)**

- Feb 25            Wednesday                            Butrovich 205            1:30 PM**  
+ SB 207 PROPERTY POSSESSION AND PROPERTY CRIMES  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
+= HB 101 CRIMES AGAINST MINORS; AGE CONSENT TO 18  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
- Feb 27            Friday    Butrovich 205            1:30 PM**  
No Meeting Scheduled

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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

- Feb 23            Monday                                        Beltz 105 (tsbldg)            1:30 PM**  
+= SB 89 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+ SJR 25 SUPPORTING US-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+ SB 164 ELIMINATE TAX DISCOUNTS  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+ SB 233 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 25            Wednesday                                    Beltz 105 (tsbldg)            1:30 PM**  
+= SB 16 REFUSE UTILITY REGULATIONS  
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
+= SB 89 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+ SB 205 PEACE OFFICERS/FIREFIGHTERS: DISABILITY  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+= SB 150 NET METERING PROGRAM & FUND  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*
- Feb 27            Friday    Beltz 105 (tsbldg)            1:30 PM**  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**RESOURCES**

- Feb 23            Monday                                        Butrovich 205            3:30 PM**  
+ Presentation: Alaska's Interest in 8-Star by Frank Richards,  
President & CEO, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**RESOURCES (continued)**

**Feb 25                      Wednesday                      Butrovich 205                      3:30 PM**

- + Presentation: Alaska Mining Update by Deantha Skibinski,  
Alaska Miners Association  
Presentation: Red Dog Mine Update by Lance Miller, Vice  
President of Natural Resources, NANA  
Presentation: Critical Minerals & Accelerator Project by Dr.  
Lee Ann Munk, Director, Alaska Critical Minerals  
Collaborative  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 27                      Friday                      Butrovich 205                      3:30 PM**

- + SJR 26 SUPPORT NATIVE CORP BUSINESS DEVELOP PRGM  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
+ HJR 29 BAN ON RUSSIAN SEAFOOD  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
+ HB 33 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: BDS FISHERIES/GAME  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**STATE AFFAIRS**

**Feb 24                      Tuesday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      3:30 PM**

- + Overview: Department of Corrections  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+ SB 237 DATA SHARING; SOCIAL SECURITY  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 26                      Thursday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      3:30 PM**

- + Presentation: Domestic Violence Sexual Assault and the  
Systems That Address Them by Brenda Stanfill Executive  
Director ANDVSA  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+ SB 236 VETERANS; SENTENCE PROG; CRIM PROCEDURE  
+ SB 162 SPECIE AS LEGAL TENDER  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
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**OTHER MEETINGS****JOINT SESSION**

**Mar 10**      **Tuesday**                      **House Chamber**      **11:00 AM**  
 +      Annual Address by Nick Begich III, U.S. Representative

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

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**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

**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 24**      **Tuesday**                      **Davis 106**      **12:01 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 What does the future of Print Media Look Like?  
 Larry Persily and Alex Baker, Board Members, Alaska News  
 Coalition  
 Sponsored by Senator Kawasaki

**Feb 25**      **Wednesday**                      **Butrovich 205**      **12:00 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 An Overview of Alaska's Workforce Future  
 Mariko (Mari) Selle, Executive Director of the Alaska  
 Workforce Alliance  
 Sponsored by Senator Merrick

**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)**

- Feb 25**      **Wednesday**      **Davis 106**      **12:01 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 Alzheimer's Association Current impact on Alaskans  
 Rachel Greenberg - Dementia Action Collaborative  
 Marty Lange - Alaska Commission on Aging  
 Yvette Tousignant - Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska  
 Sponsored by Senator Yundt
- Feb 26**      **Thursday**      **Butrovich 205**      **12:00 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program  
 (ANSEP)  
 Learn about the high school acceleration program  
 to earn dual college credit  
 Sponsored by Senator Olson
- Mar 27**      **Friday**      **Butrovich 205**      **12:01 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 The Importance of Energy Data  
 Diane Hirshberg  
 Jeremy Kasper  
 Leasi Vanessa Lee Raymond  
 UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research  
 and UAF's Alaska Center for Energy and Power  
 Sponsored by Senator Giessel
- Apr 08**      **Wednesday**      **Davis 106**      **12:00 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 Arctic Winter Games 2026, Team Alaska updates,  
 photos, achievements on Alaska's performance at  
 Arctic Winter Games 2026  
 Nicole Morton-Johnson, President  
 Sponsored by Senator Cronk