

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

February 27, 2026

Thirty-ninth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:35 a.m.

The roll showed thirteen members present. Senators Bjorkman, Dunbar, Hoffman, Kaufman, Stedman, Tilton, Yundt were excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Chris Elliot, Radiant Church. Senator Rauscher moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Heavenly Father, mighty and merciful! I approach Your throne today with great humility, standing in awe of the trust You have placed upon the leaders assembled in this chamber.

You, O Lord, who carved the fjords of Southeast Alaska with patient and purposeful hands and filled the skies with the golden light of the midnight sun, have also called these servants to steward the wellbeing of our great state and its people.

Pour out upon them a wisdom that is greater than their own, a peace that steadies them under pressure, and a courage that does not shrink from the difficult and the costly. May their decisions reflect a deep and genuine love for all Alaskans — the elderly and the young, the prosperous and the struggling, the longtime resident and the newest neighbor.

Keep them far from arrogance, from empty words, and from the subtle drift toward serving self rather than others. May they instead be moved by the example of Jesus, who laid aside His own comfort and glory to lift others up and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Let the work of this session bear fruit that lasts — laws that protect, policies that provide, and leadership that inspires trust. Bless Alaska, Lord — its mountains and its people, its present and its future. I ask these things in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

Senator Giessel led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the House

Message dated February 25 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Bills

HB 48

HOUSE BILL NO. 48 BY REPRESENTATIVES HANNAN, Fields, Eischeid, Schrage, Jimmie, Story, Galvin, Gray, Josephson, Frier, Mina, entitled:

"An Act relating to appropriations to the civil legal services fund."

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

HB 289

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 289(FIN)(brf sup maj fld) BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act making appropriations, including supplemental appropriations, capital appropriations, reappropriations, and other appropriations; amending appropriations; capitalizing funds; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

Communications

The following report is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Military Courtesy Licensing Biennial Report
in accordance with AS 08.01.063

Standing Committee Reports**SB 16**

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 16 "An Act relating to a simplified rate filing procedure for refuse utility rate adjustments; relating to Regulatory Commission of Alaska regulations regarding refuse utilities; and providing for an effective date."

Signing no recommendation: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senator Yundt. Signing do pass: Senator Gray-Jackson.

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.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 273

SENATE BILL NO. 273 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY REQUEST, entitled:

"An Act relating to certain municipal fees and disabled veterans; and providing for an effective date."

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

Unfinished Business

HB 48

Senators Gray-Jackson, Kawasaki, Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on HOUSE BILL NO. 48 "An Act relating to appropriations to the civil legal services fund." 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., March 2, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:45 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

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| Mar 03 | Tuesday | Beltz 105 (tsbldg) | 1:30 PM |
| + = | HB 126 | REINSTATEMENT NATIVE CORP/RELIGIOUS CORP | |
| | | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | |
| + = | SB 191 | TRANSFER OF RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER | |
| | | -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | |
| + = | SB 235 | AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS | |
| | | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | |
| + | HB 13 | MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS | |
| | | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | |
| + | SB 259 | PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT INCREASES | |
| | | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | |
| + | SB 255 | MUNI GRANT LAND; MAT-SU BOROUGH TRANSFER | |
| | | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | |
| | | **Streamed live on AKL.tv** | |

EDUCATION

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--|----------------|
| Feb 27 | Friday | Beltz 105 (tsbldg) | 3:30 PM |
| | | No Meeting Scheduled | |
| Mar 02 | Monday | Beltz 105 (tsbldg) | 3:30 PM |
| + = | SB 110 | MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANTS | |
| | | -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | |
| + | SB 238 | LIBRARY MATERIALS POLICIES; CENSORSHIP | |
| | | -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | |
| | | Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled | |
| | | **Streamed live on AKL.tv** | |

EDUCATION (continued)

- Mar 04 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + Presentation: University of Alaska - College of Education Consortium by Dr. Bridget Weiss, UA Liaison to the Alaska College of Education
 + SB 209 GRAD REQUIREMENTS & PROFICIENCY TOOLS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 06 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 No Meeting Scheduled

FINANCE

- 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
 -- Public Testimony <Two Minute Time Limit> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE (continued)

- Mar 02 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 += HB 289 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 02 Monday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 += HB 78 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 03 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 += HB 289 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL
 += HB 194 APPROVE MARATHON PETRO ROYALTY OIL SALE
 += SB 104 VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE
 += SB 23 CIVICS EDUCATION
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 03 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 04 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + SB 178 EXPAND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 93 EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 04 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 05 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 No Meeting Scheduled

SENATE JOURNAL

1794

February 27, 2026

FINANCE (continued)

Mar 05	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change -- No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 06	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 06	Friday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 03 +	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	Presentation: Office of Children's Services Audit Review by Kim Guay, Director, OCS Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 05 + += SB 193	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	Presentation: Covenant House Youth Advisory Board PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

JUDICIARY

Feb 27	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 02 += SB 251 += SB 190	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION UNIFORM ACT: GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

SENATE JOURNAL

February 27, 2026

1795

JUDICIARY (continued)

Mar 04	Wednesday	Davis 106	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Location Change --		
+	Meeting Jointly with the Senate State Affairs Committee		
	Hearing on Dissemination of Voter Information to the U.S. Department of Justice		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 06	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Feb 27	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 02	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 164	ELIMINATE TAX DISCOUNTS		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+= SB 233	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ HB 50	SNOW CLASSICS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 249	VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 04	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 35	DELIVERY NETWORK COMPANIES		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+= SB 205	PEACE OFFICERS/FIREFIGHTERS: DISABILITY		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 180	LNG IMPORT FACILITIES		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 06	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

SENATE JOURNAL

1796

February 27, 2026

RESOURCES

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

Mar 02 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- + Presentation: Bonding Authority of AIDEA by Randy Ruaro,
Executive Director, Alaska Industrial Development and
Export Authority
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
- + SB 158 COOK INLET: NEW ADMIN AREA
-- Public Testimony --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 04 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- + SB 253 SULFUR CONTENT OF MARINE FUEL
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
- + SB 161 PROHIBIT BOTTOM TRAWLING
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 06 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- MEETING CANCELED --
- + HB 79 NAMING VIC FISCHER SHOUP BAY MARINE PARK
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 230 JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 03 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

- + SB 237 DATA SHARING; SOCIAL SECURITY
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

SENATE JOURNAL

February 27, 2026

1797

STATE AFFAIRS (continued)

Mar 04	Wednesday	Davis 106	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
	-- Please Note Location Change --		
+	Meeting Jointly with the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on Dissemination of Voter Information to the U.S. Department of Justice **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 05	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= SB 203	PROHIBITED WEAPONS/FIREARM CONVERT DEVICE -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 243	DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WEAPON -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+= SB 126	CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; PLACEMENT Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 03	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: Use of Advanced Construction Funds and Federal Funds for State Projects by Department of Transportation and Public Facilities **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 05	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Mar 02	Monday	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM
+	Administration Subcommittee		
Mar 09	Monday	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM
+	Administration Subcommittee		
Mar 16	Monday	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM
+	Administration Subcommittee		

CORRECTIONS

Mar 06 **Friday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **8:00 AM**
 + Department of Corrections - Budget Overview

EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Mar 04 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Education & Early Development Subcommittee

Mar 11 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Education & Early Development Subcommittee

Mar 18 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Education & Early Development Subcommittee

Mar 25 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
 + Education & Early Development Subcommittee

HEALTH

Mar 04 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:30 AM**
 + Overview: FY2027 Budget and Audit Findings by
 Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner
 Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner
 Pam Halloran, Assistant Commissioner
 -- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

Mar 04 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **5:15 PM**
 + Courts - Budget Overview

LAW

Mar 05 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **5:15 PM**
 + Department of Law - Budget Overview

SENATE JOURNAL

February 27, 2026

1799

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mar 04 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **8:00 AM**
+ Department of Public Safety - Budget Overview

REVENUE

Mar 05 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
+ Revenue Subcommittee

Mar 12 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
+ Revenue Subcommittee

Mar 19 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:15 PM**
+ Revenue Subcommittee

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Mar 09 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
+ University of Alaska Subcommittee

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Mar 05 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+= SJR 24 HONORING RELATIONSHIP WITH GREENLAND
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

- Mar 25** **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Presentation: Alaska Comprehensive Forensic
Training Academy
Dr. Angelia Trujillo
- 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