

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

March 18, 2026

Fifty-eighth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:02 a.m.

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senator Myers was excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Olson was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Dani Cherian, Valley Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I thank You this morning and for every Senator that you've called here today.

All things are seen by you, nothing is hidden from your eyes. Your peace, is a reminder of your plan and purpose.

The Bible says,

[Isaiah 26:3 ESV] "3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

I ask that your Spirit, guide and give them success, help them to trust in you, and please reveal this peace to those who don't know You.

I ask that You protect our Senators, their staff, and families this week as they take steps to steward the needs of our great State of Alaska. Please bless them Father and protect them.

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 fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh legislative days, Senate Journal Supplement No. 10 and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 17 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate today through March 22. Without objection, Senator Olson was excused.

Communications

The following letter was received from Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom and is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Letter dated March 16 certifying the proper filing of an initiative entitled: "An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections."

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

Department of Revenue
Annual Report on the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund
Calendar Year 2025
in accordance with AS 37.10.430

Department of Health
Alaska Commission on Aging
Annual Report FY2025
February 2026
in accordance with AS 44.29.790

Standing Committee Reports

SB 143

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 143 "An Act relating to the terms of office of municipal school board members; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) "An Act relating to the terms of office of municipal school board members; relating to the size of the city council in second class cities; and providing for an effective date."

Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senator Dunbar.
Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Gray-Jackson, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Education and Early Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 249

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 249 "An Act relating to virtual currency kiosks; relating to transactions involving virtual currency; and relating to unfair trade or deceptive acts or practices" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 249(L&C)

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair. Signing no recommendation: Senators Yundt, Gray-Jackson. Signing amend: Senators Dunbar, Merrick.

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 Judiciary Committee.

SB 255

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 255 "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."

Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senators Olson, Dunbar, Gray-Jackson. Signing do pass: Senator Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, indeterminate, Department of Natural
Resources

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

The bill was referred to the Resources Committee.

SB 272

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 272 "An Act relating to the electronic health information exchange system; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Claman, Giessel.
Signing no recommendation: Senator Tobin.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

HB 13

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 13(CRA) "An Act relating to optional municipal property tax exemptions for certain long-term rental units, certain mobile home parks, real property rented to low-income families, real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode, and real property owned by first-time homebuyers" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR SS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 13(CRA) "An Act relating to optional municipal property tax exemptions for certain long-term rental units, certain mobile home parks, real property rented to low-income families, real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode, and real property owned by first-time homebuyers; and relating to municipal tax refunds."
(Title Change SCR 14)

Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senator Olson.
Signing do pass: Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

The bill was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

Consideration of the Calendar**Second Reading of Senate Bills****SB 158**

SENATE BILL NO. 158 "An Act relating to administrative areas for regulation of certain commercial set net entry permits; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 158 will advance to third reading on the March 20 calendar.

SB 181

SENATE BILL NO. 181 "An Act relating to disclosure of information obtained by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to other state agencies" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 181 will advance to third reading on the March 20 calendar.

Second Reading of House Resolutions**HJR 29**

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29(FSH) am Supporting the extension of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14024; supporting the continued national prohibition on Russian seafood imports effected by Executive Orders 14024, 14068, and 14114; and urging the President of the United States, federal agencies, and the United States Congress to consider additional measures necessary for prohibiting the importation of Russian seafood into the United States and to maintain and strengthen federal measures that ensure fair trade, protect the state's seafood industry, and promote sustainable and ethical seafood production, was read the second time.

Senator Giessel, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Resources Senate Committee Substitute offered on page 1953. Without objection, SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29(RES) was adopted.

President Stevens stated SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29(RES) will advance to third reading on the March 20 calendar.

Citations

Honoring – University of Alaska Fairbanks Native Arts Center 60th
Anniversary
Senator(s) Myers
Representative(s) Dibert, Jimmie

Honoring – The United States Declaration of Independence 250th
Anniversary

Senator(s) Myers, Tilton

Representative(s) Allard

Honoring – Fire Chief Chad Heineken

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Prax, Tomaszewski

Honoring – Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Carrick, Mears

Honoring – Dan Polta

Representative(s) McCabe

Senator(s) Cronk

Honoring – Joseph J. Kim

Senator(s) Tilton

In Memoriam – Dr. John Alden

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Schwanke, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam – Dr. Edmond “Ed” Packee

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Schwanke, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam – Dr. Teresa Hollingsworth

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Schwanke, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam – Jenae Campanelli

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Stapp, Tomaszewski

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were 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

Honoring – Tom Panamaroff

Senator(s) Stevens

Representative(s) Stutes

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**SJR 2**

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to actions upon veto. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Cronk moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from March 19 through March 22. Without objection, Senator Cronk was excused.

SB 230

Senator Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 230 "An Act relating to the boundaries of the Jonesville Public Use Area; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 249

Senator Dunbar moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 249 "An Act relating to virtual currency kiosks; relating to transactions involving virtual currency; and relating to unfair trade or deceptive acts or practices." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 158

Senator Dunbar moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 158 "An Act relating to administrative areas for regulation of certain commercial set net entry permits; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, March 26 through evening plane time, March 28. Without objection, Senator Tobin was excused.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate return to Introduction of Guests. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the House

Recede Messages

HB 289

Message dated March 18 was read stating the House failed to concur in the Senate amendments to CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 289(FIN)(brf sup maj fld) "An Act making appropriations, including supplemental appropriations, capital appropriations, reappropriations, and other appropriations; amending appropriations; capitalizing funds; and providing for an effective date" and respectfully requests the Senate to recede from its amendments, namely:

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL
NO. 289(FIN) am S "An Act making supplemental
appropriations; capitalizing funds; making
appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution
of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget
reserve fund; and providing for an effective date."

In the event the Senate fails to recede, the Speaker has appointed the following members to a Conference Committee to meet with a like committee from the Senate to consider the bills:

Representative Josephson, Chair
Representative Schrage
Representative Stapp

Senator Giessel moved the Senate recede from its amendments and recommended the body vote no.

The question being: "Shall the Senate recede from its amendments?"
The roll was taken with the following result:

SCS CSHB 289(FIN) am S

Shall the Senate Recede from its Amendments
to CSHB 289(FIN)(brf sup maj fld)?

YEAS: 0 NAYS: 18 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Myers, Olson

and so, the Senate failed to recede.

President Stevens appointed the following members to a Conference
Committee to meet with the like committee from the House:

Senator Hoffman, Chair
Senator Stedman
Senator Cronk

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 10:30 a.m., March 20, 2026. Without objection,
the Senate adjourned at 12:15 p.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 19 | Thursday | Beltz 105 (tsbldg) | 1:30 PM |
| + SB 247 | GENERATED OBSCENE CHLD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL | | |
| | -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | | |
| + SB 258 | CONTRACT: LICENSING SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS | | |
| | -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | | |
| + SB 268 | SICK LEAVE EXEMPTION: FISH PROCESSORS | | |
| | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | | |
| + SB 153 | PUBLIC MEETINGS: EXEMPT MUNI SVC AREA BDS | | |
| | -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- | | |
| | Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled | | |
| | **Streamed live on AKL.tv** | | |



EDUCATION

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| Mar 18 | Wednesday | Beltz 105 (tsbldg) | 3:30 PM |
| + | Consideration of Governor’s Appointees: Board of Education and Early Development,
Pamela Dupras
Sally Stockhausen
Professional Teaching Practices Commission,
Michael Robbins | | |
| | -- Public Testimony -- | | |
| + SB 277 | EDUCATION: CORRESPOND STUDENTS/BSA/TCHERS | | |
| | -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | | |
| | Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled | | |
| | **Streamed live on AKL.tv** | | |

EDUCATION (continued)

- Mar 20 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
+ SB 232 PERSONAL COLLECTION OF CERTAIN FOSSILS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ SB 228 PUBLIC SCHOOLS; OPIOID AWARENESS PROGRAM
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+= SB 187 SCHOOL NUTRITION/MEAL: PROHIBIT FOOD DYES
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

- Mar 18 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
+ SB 212 NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ SB 227 TAX COMPACT; SALES TAX; OIL & GAS TAX
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

- Mar 18 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
-- Rescheduled from 3/17/26 --
-- Please Note Time Change --
+= SB 274 PERMANENT FUND POMV AVAILABLE FOR APPROP
Modeling by Legislative Finance Division
Overview: Major Maintenance, School Bond Debt
Reimbursement by
Legislative Finance Division
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

- Mar 19 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
+ HB 73 COMPLEX CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+= SB 76 COMPLEX CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+= SB 130 FISHERIES PROD DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+= SJR 29 CONST. AM: EDUCATION FUND
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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FINANCE (continued)

- Mar 19 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

- Mar 20 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 No Meeting Scheduled

- Mar 20 Friday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 No Meeting Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

- Mar 19 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 + Presentation: The Rising Cost of Health Care
 Heather Carpenter, Director of Insurance,
 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
 Development
 Jared Kosin, President & CEO, Alaska Hospital &
 Healthcare Association
 Shayla Teague, Director, Alaska Ark Insurance
 Solutions

- + SB 276 CONTRACEPTIVES: INSURANCE COVERAGE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

- Mar 18 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

- Mar 20 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**
 += SB 237 DATA SHARING; SOCIAL SECURITY
 + SB 249 VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 18 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 225 TRUSTS; TRUST PROCEEDINGS; TRUSTEES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 244 TRAVEL INSURANCE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 35 DELIVERY NETWORK COMPANIES
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 248 GENETIC COUNS: LICENSING; ADVISORY CNCL.
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 += SB 226 HOMEMADE FOOD; REDUCED OXYGEN PACKAGING
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 20 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 150 NET METERING PROGRAM & FUND
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += SB 180 LNG IMPORT FACILITIES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += SB 196 BEH. HEALTH CRISIS SURCHARGE & FUND
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += SB 252 UCC: SECURED TRANS.; ELECTRONIC RECORDS
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 185 INSURANCE; REBATES; ADVERTISING
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 += SB 35 DELIVERY NETWORK COMPANIES
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES

Mar 18 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SB 275 NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES (continued)

Mar 20 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + SB 269 BOARD OF FISHERIES
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += HB 33 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: BDS FISHERIES/GAME
 -- Public Testimony --
 += SB 275 NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 19 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + SB 245 ARTS AND CULTURE DAY
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Presentation: Department of Corrections Review
 of Pretrial, Probation, Parole, Institutions
 and Recidivism
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 19 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 + Overview: Alaska Marine Highway System
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV

Mar 19 Thursday Senate Finance 532 8:00 AM
 -- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
 + Overview: FY27 Budget Items by
 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
 Development
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

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EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

FISH & GAME

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **8:00 AM**
+ Budget Close Out

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mar 19 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **5:15 PM**
+ Overview: Workers' Compensation by
 Charlie Collins, Director
 Overview: Unemployment Insurance Fund by
 Paloma Harbour
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

REVENUE

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

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 18 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:30 AM**
+ FY27 Request, FY26 Update, & Major Issues

Mar 25 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:30 AM**
+ Highways & State Equipment Fleet

Apr 01 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:30 AM**
+ Airports & DFS

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**TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES
(continued)**

Apr 08 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:30 AM**
+ AMHS

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:30 AM**
+ Budget Close Out

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mar 18 **Wednesday** **Adams 519** **5:15 PM**
+ -- Teleconference Listen Only --

- AGENDA
 - I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of the Agenda
 - III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 11th, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - IV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events
 - a. Sham Jam 2026 SEAGLA Fundraiser
 - b. Legislative Skits Big Brothers/Big Sisters/AWARE Fundraiser
 - V. Committee Business
 - a. Fairbanks LIO Lease Extension
 - VI. Executive Session
 - a. ITB 686--Capitol Carpet Removal and Installation
 - VII. Adjourn
- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB289

Mar 19 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **3:45 PM**
+ Conference Committee:
 Organizational Meeting
+ HB 289 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

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: Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy Dr. Angelia Trujillo Sponsored by Senator Tobin		

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		