

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

March 31, 2026

Seventy-first Day

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

The roll showed twenty members present.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Charles Ensminger, Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Creator God, I come before you in this quiet moment to ask for your presence to again rest upon these who serve in this place.

Grant them wisdom, grant them courage for the living of these days and for the process of leading and deciding for their constituents.

Grant them clarity in their decisions, compassion in their care, and humility in their service.

In times of trial, be their strength. In times of uncertainty, be their centering presence.

I pray that you watch over them, their families, their constituents, and all who live in this great land. May your peace surround this place.

Be with those in this chamber, but also, I pray, be with those working throughout this building: the staff, the pages, the security, the custodians, and those who have gathered in the galleries.

Peace be with them and may your grace uphold us all.

Hear my prayers, almighty God, for this I pray, Amen.

Senator Yundt led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the House

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

First Reading and Reference of House Resolutions

HJR 38

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38 BY REPRESENTATIVES HALL, Eischeid, Mears, Story, Josephson, Galvin, Frier, Stutes, Schrage, McCabe,

Urging the United States Congress to recognize public safety telecommunicators as first responders; and urging the United States Congress to pass the Enhancing First Response Act.

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated March 31 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Finance Committee held a hearing on the following appointee. A signature on this report does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual during any further sessions.

Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

John Crowther

Signing the report: Senators Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, Cochairs;
Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

Consideration of the Calendar**Second Reading of Senate Bills****SB 130**

SENATE BILL NO. 130 "An Act relating to the fisheries product development tax credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 31, SLA 2022; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Hoffman, Cochair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Finance Committee Substitute offered on page 2047. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 130(FIN) was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 130(FIN) will advance to third reading on the April 1 calendar.

SB 63

SENATE BILL NO. 63 "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Updated fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 63 will advance to third reading on the April 1 calendar.

SB 143

SENATE BILL NO. 143 "An Act relating to the terms of office of municipal school board members; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Merrick, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Community and Regional Affairs Committee Substitute offered on page 1973. Without objection, 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" was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) will advance to third reading on the April 1 calendar.

Third Reading of Senate Bills**SB 164**

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 164(L&C) "An Act eliminating deductions for the remittance of the motor fuel tax, tobacco taxes, and tire fees; relating to discounts on cigarette stamps; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 164(L&C) "An Act eliminating deductions for the remittance of the motor fuel tax, tobacco taxes, and tire fees; relating to discounts on cigarette stamps; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 164(L&C)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 16 NAYS: 4 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

Nays: Kaufman, Myers, Rauscher, Tilton

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 164(L&C) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 180

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 180(L&C) "An Act relating to the regulation of liquefied natural gas import facilities by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 180(L&C) "An Act relating to the regulation of liquefied natural gas import facilities by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 180(L&C)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 180(L&C) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 237

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 237(JUD) "An Act relating to data sharing by the Department of Administration for driver's license data verification purposes; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 237(JUD) "An Act relating to data sharing by the Department of Administration for driver's license data verification purposes; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 237(JUD)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 237(JUD) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 9

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 9(JUD) "An Act relating to the surrender of infants; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 9(JUD) "An Act relating to the surrender of infants; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 9(JUD)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

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

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

Nays: Stedman, Tobin

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 9(JUD) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 11:08 a.m.

After Recess

Joint Session in the House

Speaker Edgmon called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Stevens, who called the Joint Session to order at 11:15 a.m.

The purpose of the Joint Session was to hear an address by the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the Senate be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the House be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

President Stevens appointed Senator Kawasaki and Representative Frier to escort Senator Murkowski to the Joint Session.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms, Matt Simpson, announced the Honorable Lisa Murkowski's entrance to the House Chamber.

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski was escorted to the rostrum and welcomed by President Stevens and Speaker Edgmon.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski delivered her address. This address appears in House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 18.

Following her address, there was a question and answer period. U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski received a standing ovation and was escorted from the chamber by Senator Kawasaki.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, President Stevens adjourned the Joint Session at 12:30 p.m.

After Recess

In the Senate

The Senate reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

Consideration of the Calendar (continued)

Senate Resolutions in Third Reading

SJR 2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to actions upon veto, which had been held in third reading (page 2094) was before the Senate.

The question being: "Shall SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to actions upon veto, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SJR 2

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 14 NAYS: 6 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski

Nays: Cronk, Kaufman, Myers, Rauscher, Tilton, Yundt

and so, SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to adopt the first supplemental calendar. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Consideration of the First Supplemental Calendar

Second Reading of Senate Resolutions

SJR 29

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to a public education fund, was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 will advance to third reading on the April 1 calendar.

Consideration of the Calendar (continued)

Citations

Honoring – Jessie Holmes
Representative(s) Moore

Honoring – Colony Middle School Wrestling Team
Senator(s) Yundt
Representative(s) Moore

Honoring – The 2026 Iditarod Top 10 Finishers
Senator(s) Hoffman
Representative(s) Jimmie, Eischeid

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 citations be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

Honoring – Mary Binkley
Representative(s) Carrick, Stapp
Senator(s) Giessel

Honoring – Denali Montessori School 75th Anniversary
Representative(s) Galvin, Fields
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

Honoring – Grace Christian School Boys Basketball Team 4A State
Champions
Representative(s) Kopp, Coulombe

In Memoriam – Stephen Boshell Potter
Senator(s) Claman

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 63

Senator Rauscher moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 63 "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment**SB 9**

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 9(JUD) "An Act relating to the surrender of infants; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 164

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 164(L&C) "An Act eliminating deductions for the remittance of the motor fuel tax, tobacco taxes, and tire fees; relating to discounts on cigarette stamps; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 180

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 180(L&C) "An Act relating to the regulation of liquefied natural gas import facilities by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 237

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 237(JUD) "An Act relating to data sharing by the Department of Administration for driver's license data verification purposes; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SJR 2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to actions upon veto, was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., April 1, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 1:13 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 31 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 02 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

EDUCATION

Apr 01 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + Presentation: UAF Leadership Presentation on the Alaska Native Language Center by Mike Sfraga, UAF Chancellor
 Charlene Stern, UAF Provost
 Teisha Simmons, Dean,
 College of Indigenous Studies
 Bryan Uher, Vice Chancellor of Rural, Community and Native Education
 Presentation: History of the Alaska Native Language Center's Work and its Present Status by Sam Alexander, Chair, Alaska Native Language Program, UAF
 Anna Berge, Professor of Linguistics, UAF
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 03 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

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FINANCE

- Mar 31 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Confirmation Hearing:
 Commissioner-Designee John Crowther,
 Department of Natural Resources
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Mar 31 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**
- Apr 01 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 += SB 41 PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 163 REPEAL CERTAIN INACTIVE FUNDS/ACCOUNTS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 274 PERMANENT FUND POMV AVAILABLE FOR APPROP
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**
- Apr 01 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 + -- Please Note Time Change --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 02 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 02 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 No Meeting Scheduled
- Apr 03 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 No Meeting Scheduled
- Apr 03 Friday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 No Meeting Scheduled

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 31 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + SB 281 HEALTHCARE COMPACTS; RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Apr 02 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

JUDICIARY

Apr 01 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 += SB 252 UCC: SECURED TRANS.; ELECTRONIC RECORDS
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Apr 03 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

LABOR & COMMERCE

Apr 01 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 03 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

Apr 01 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SJR 20 CLEAN UP MARINE DEBRIS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 208 AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + HJR 18 URGING SUPPORT FOR AKLNG
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Apr 03 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

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STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 31 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

+ SJR 30 SUPPORT MILITARY&INCREASE INFRASTRUCTURE

-- Public Testimony --

+ SB 245 ARTS AND CULTURE DAY

-- Public Testimony --

+ SB 239 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

-- Invited & Public Testimony --

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Apr 02 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled**Streamed live on AKL.tv**

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 31 Tuesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM

+ SB 244 TRAVEL INSURANCE

-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

Presentation: Port of Seward Roll On/Roll Off

Capability by Alaska Railroad Corporation,

TOTE Maritime Alaska, and

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 02 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM

No Meeting Scheduled

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

FISH & GAME

Apr 15 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 8:00 AM

+ Budget Close Out

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mar 31 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+ Department Budget Overview:

Commissioner-designee Crowther and

Deputy Commissioner Goodrum

Division of Forestry and Fire Protection Overview

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Apr 01 +	Wednesday Airports & DFS	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
Apr 08 +	Wednesday AMHS	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
Apr 15 +	Wednesday Budget Close Out	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

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

Apr 08	Wednesday 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	Davis 106	12:00 PM
Apr 10	Friday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Looking Back at the History on the Global Perspective of Oil & Gas Sponsored by Senator Giessel and Representative Mears	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM