

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

April 15, 2026

Eighty-sixth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:03 a.m.

The roll showed twenty members present.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Antone Ferrel, Calvary Fellowship Juneau. Senator Kiehl moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Almighty God,

Today, I pause to remember the people who make the work in this room possible: the families.

I know that serving Alaska is a sacrifice carried by the whole household. I think of the families who packed up their lives and moved to Juneau, pushing through a remarkably tough winter just to be together. I ask for extra grace for the kids navigating new hallways and trying to feel at home in unfamiliar schools.

I know that serving Alaska is a profound and shared sacrifice. I lift up the families who have walked alongside these Senators through grueling elections, giving up precious time and normalcy so their loved ones can serve this state. And I remember the loved ones back in hometowns across our state, feeling the distance and missing their people.

And today, I also remember the staff members—the dedicated individuals serving quietly in the background. They are the unseen foundation of this Capitol, carrying the heavy load of late nights, complex details, and endless preparation to keep this body moving forward.

God, the physical, mental, and emotional toll of this season is real. When the heavy demands of this work leave the families, the staff, and these leaders feeling stretched and overwhelmed, I ask that You provide genuine rest. Guard their emotional and mental wellbeing. Bring a quiet peace to their minds, their offices, and their homes.

May the love of their families anchor them today. And may the comfort of knowing that their sacrifices truly matter give these Senators the clear minds and courageous hearts they need for the decisions ahead.

I ask for Your blessing upon this Senate, and upon the homes that sustain them, Amen.

Senator Gray-Jackson led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the House

HB 194

Message dated April 13 was read stating the House failed to concur in the Senate amendments to HOUSE BILL NO. 194 "An Act approving and ratifying the sale of royalty oil by the State of Alaska to Marathon Petroleum Supply and Trading Company LLC; and providing for an effective date" and respectfully requests the Senate to recede from its amendments, namely:

SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 194(FIN) am S(efd fld S) "An Act establishing an income tax on certain entities producing or transporting oil or gas in the state; approving and ratifying the sale of royalty oil by the State of Alaska to Marathon Petroleum Supply and Trading Company LLC."

Communications

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

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Division of Insurance
2025 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 21.06.110

A letter dated April 8 was received from the office of the Idaho Secretary of the Senate forwarding a Senate Joint Memorial urging the United States Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated April 13 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Judiciary 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.

State Board of Parole

Steve Meyer

Signing the report: Senator Claman, Chair; Senators Tilton, Kiehl, Stevens, Tobin.

SB 121

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 121 "An Act relating to settlement of health insurance claims; relating to allowable charges for health care services or supplies; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 121(L&C) "An Act relating to insurance; establishing standards for health insurance provider networks; relating to settlement of health insurance claims; relating to allowable charges for health care services or supplies; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Administration

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

President Stevens added a Finance Committee referral to the bill.

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 187

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 187 "An Act prohibiting certain food additives in public school meals; and providing for an effective date" and recommended the adoption of the Education Committee Substitute offered on page 2025.

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

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Education and Early Development

The bill is on today's calendar.

SB 217

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 217 "An Act relating to employer contributions to the unemployment compensation fund; establishing an employer contribution for the state training and employment program; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 217(L&C) "An Act increasing contributions to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the state training and employment program; relating to employer and employee contributions to the unemployment compensation fund; establishing an employer contribution for the state training and employment program; relating to unemployment benefits; relating to the qualifications for instructors at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center; relating to employment security contributions for certain sports officials; relating to exemptions from the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act; relating to employee unemployment tax credits; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Fiscal Note No. 5, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Fiscal Note No. 6, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HJR 32

The Health and Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32(HSS) Expressing commitment to the rural health transformation program;

acknowledging the critical health care challenges facing rural areas of the state; and urging action by the Governor and the Alaska delegation in Congress to continue to advocate for the state's interests and advance the rural health transformation program.

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

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 283

SENATE BILL NO. 283 BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to staffing standards for registered nurses; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 284

SENATE BILL NO. 284 BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to prohibited conduct relating to drunken persons; and relating to civil liability of persons providing alcoholic beverages."

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

SB 285

SENATE BILL NO. 285 BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Rural Energy Infrastructure Organization; relating to the Alaska affordable energy fund; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of Senate Bills

SB 258

SENATE BILL NO. 258 "An Act relating to contracts for the licensing of software applications" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 258 will advance to third reading on the April 16 calendar.

SB 187

SENATE BILL NO. 187 "An Act prohibiting certain food additives in public school meals; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Tobin, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Education Committee Substitute offered on page 2025. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 187(EDC) was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 187(EDC) will advance to third reading on the April 16 calendar.

Second Reading of Senate Resolutions

SJR 28

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28 Recognizing the vital role of workers serving in the state under the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program and the H-1B Program for specialty occupations in supporting the state's economic security and continuity of critical services, was read the second time.

Senator Bjorkman, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Labor and Commerce Committee Substitute offered on page 2193. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28(L&C) Recognizing the vital role of workers serving in the state under the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, the H-1B Program for specialty occupations, and the H-2B Program for temporary nonagricultural workers in supporting the state's economic security and continuity of critical services, was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28(L&C) will advance to third reading on the April 16 calendar.

Special Order of Business

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

Citation Calendar

Honoring – Stanley Robinson
Senator(s) Cronk

Honoring – The Whisenant Family
Senator(s) Cronk

Honoring – Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School Nordic Ski Team Coaches & Mentors
Senator(s) Dunbar
Representative(s) Eischeid, Mina

Honoring – James Thaddeus “Thad” Poulson
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) Stedman

Honoring – The Ester Gold Camp 90th Anniversary
Representative(s) Carrick
Senator(s) Myers

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Honoring – Sharon Miranda
Representative(s) Allard

Honoring – Eagle River Elks Lodge
Representative(s) Allard

Honoring – Christopher “Chris” Scott Constant
Senator(s) Tobin, Dunbar, Gray-Jackson

Honoring – Anson Blocker
Representative(s) Allard

Honoring – Marine Exchange of Alaska 25th Anniversary
Representative(s) Hannan, Story
Senator(s) Kiehl

Honoring – Henry Strub
Representative(s) Edgmon

Honoring – The 2026 Arctic Lightning Airshow & Open House
Representative(s) Tomaszewski, Prax
Senator(s) Myers

In Memoriam – Dr. R. Dale Guthrie
Representative(s) Carrick
Senator(s) Kawasaki

In Memoriam – Valorie F. Walker
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

In Memoriam – Francisco “Frank” Mizal Javier
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

In Memoriam – Benedict Jones Sr.
Senator(s) Cronk

In Memoriam – Shawn David McVey
Senator(s) Kawasaki, Wielechowski
Representative(s) Eischeid

In Memoriam – Noel Janice Murray
Senator(s) Kawasaki
Representative(s) Dibert

In Memoriam – Dr. Gary Laursen
Senator(s) Kawasaki
Representative(s) Carrick, Dibert

In Memoriam – Eric Braendel
Representative(s) Allard

In Memoriam – Master Sergeant David Wayne Foster
Representative(s) Allard

In Memoriam – Joseph Allan Elliott
Representative(s) Allard

In Memoriam – Kaye Carleton
Representative(s) Allard

In Memoriam – Paul Stephen Bates
Representative(s) Allard

In Memoriam – Colette Nelson Guggenheim
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) Stedman

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Citation Calendar be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, April 16 through evening plane time, April 20. Without objection, Senator Olson 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., April 16, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:31 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

Apr 16	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 250	DATA CENTERS, UTILITIES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 210	INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION		
+ HB 125	BOARD OF FISHERIES MEMBERSHIP		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

Apr 15	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Apr 17	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE

Apr 15	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+ SB 126	CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; PLACEMENT		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ HB 184	AIDEA FINANCE WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOP.		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Apr 15	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

FINANCE (continued)

Apr 16 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + Overview: University of Alaska FY27 Budget
 Closeout
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 += HB 78 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 16 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
 + -- Please Note Time Change --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 17 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 17 Friday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
 + -- Please Note Time Change --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Apr 16 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:
 Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives:
 Stacia Miller
 Board of Chiropractic Examiners:
 Edward Barrington and Walter Campbell
 Board of Examiners in Optometry:
 Charles Rudstrom and Kathleen Rice
 Board of Nursing: Ashley Scholle
 Board of Pharmacy: Rebekah Balmes and
 Lillian Okpaleke
 Board of Dental Examiners: Travis Perkins
 Board of Professional Counselors: Crystal Herring
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

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JUDICIARY

Apr 15 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:
 Commission on Judicial Conduct:
 Aldean Kilbourn, Donald McClintock III and
 Jane Mores
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
+ SB 247 GENERATED OBSCENE CHLD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 17 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
 M. Grace Salazar, State Commission on Human
 Rights
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

Apr 15 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
-- Please Note Time Change --
 The Committee Will Gavel in at 1:45 pm
+ HB 243 BARBERS & HAIRDRESSERS BD LICENSING
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ SB 259 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT INCREASES
 Uniform Rule 23 Waived
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 17 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

Apr 15 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
+= SB 275 NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
+= SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES (continued)

Apr 16 Thursday Butrovich 205 9:00 AM
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 275 NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 17 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 16 Thursday Davis 106 3:30 PM
 -- Please Note Location Change --
 + Overview: Voter Initiatives
 This Hearing is Being Convened Per AS 24.05.186
 This Hearing Will Include Overviews of All
 Election Related Ballot Initiatives That Have
 Been Certified for the 2026 Election Cycle
 This Will Be An Opportunity For Members of The
 Public to Learn More About Each Ballot Initiative
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Apr 16 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Apr 16 Thursday Senate Finance 532 5:50 PM
 + Budget Closeout

CORRECTIONS

Apr 16 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 5:15 PM
 + Department of Corrections FY27 Budget Closeout

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EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Apr 16 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:30 PM**
+ Budget Closeout

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Apr 17 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **12:15 PM**
-- Please Note Time Change --
-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
Presentation: Subcommittee Budget Closeout
Streamed live on AKL.tv

FISH & GAME

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

HEALTH

Apr 17 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **12:00 PM**
+ -- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
Presentation: Subcommittee Budget Closeout
Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **5:15 PM**
+ Courts FY27 Budget Closeout

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Budget Close Out
Streamed live on AKL.tv

LAW

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **5:30 PM**
+ Department of Law FY27 Budget Closeout

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **6:00 PM**
+ Department of Public Safety FY27 Budget Closeout

REVENUE

Apr 16 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **6:10 PM**
+ Budget Closeout

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

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

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Apr 15 **Wednesday** **Adams 519** **5:15 PM**

+ -- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
AGENDA
I. Call to Order
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
a. March 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes
IV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events
a. Kenai River Junior Classic
Ted Stevens Kenai River Classic
Kenai River Women’s Classic
b. Stevens-Hoffman ‘Adios’ Retirement Roast &
Toast benefiting
i. Food Bank of Alaska
ii. Kodiak Women’s Resource Center
iii. Tundra Women’s Coalition
V. Committee Business
a. Bethel LIO Lease Renewal No. 1
b. Legislative Procurement Procedures Amendment
c. Computer Equipment Hardware Refresh
d. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance
Update
VI. Executive Session
a. RFP 681—Chambers Lighting
VII. Adjourn
Streamed live on AKL.tv

