

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

April 27, 2026

Ninety-eighth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:43 a.m.

The roll showed twenty members present.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Nathaniel Habeger, Juneau Christian Center. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear God, I come before You today in reverence, acknowledging You as the sovereign King over all nations and all authority. As Jesus taught his followers to pray, I ask: Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord, let Your purposes be established in this Alaskan Senate. Shape every decision, every discussion, and every outcome according to Your perfect will. Where human wisdom falls short, let Your truth prevail. Where personal interest competes, let Your righteousness lead.

Grant these senators discernment to align their work with what is good, just, and faithful. Give them courage to pursue what is honorable, even when it is difficult, and humility to seek Your guidance above all else.

May Your kingdom be reflected here—not in power or position, but in justice, mercy, and truth. Let this body serve in a way that brings peace, promotes flourishing, and upholds the dignity of all Alaskans.

In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen.

Senator Merrick led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the Governor

Letters dated April 24 and April 27 were read stating in accordance with Article III, Sections 26 and 27 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 39.05.080, I submitted a list of appointees for confirmation.

The following appointees are withdrawn from consideration, effective immediately:

Alaska Judicial Council

John Wood

Alaska Police Standards Council

Veronica Lambertsen

Board of Massage Therapists

Victoria Acree

Board of Nursing

Ashley Scholle

Messages from the House**Concur Messages****SCR 19**

Message dated April 24 was read stating the House passed and returned for consideration SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19 Extending the governor's October 9, 2025, declaration of a disaster emergency in response to the 2025 West Coast Storm, with the following amendment:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19
am H Extending the governor's October 9, 2025,
declaration of a disaster emergency in response to the
2025 West Coast Storm; and approving an amended
financing plan.

Standing Committee Reports**SB 228**

The Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 228 "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to public education; and relating to opioid abuse awareness and prevention" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 228(EDC) "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to public education; relating to opioid abuse awareness and prevention; and relating to funds received from the national opioid settlement."

Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Yundt, Stevens, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 249

The Judiciary 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(JUD) "An Act relating to virtual currency kiosks; relating to transactions involving virtual currency; relating to unfair trade or deceptive acts or practices; and providing for an effective date."
(technical title change)

Signing do pass: Senator Claman, Chair; Senators Tilton, Kiehl, Stevens. Signing no recommendation: Senator Tobin.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

HB 78

The Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78(FIN) am(efd fld) "An Act relating to the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; and providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78(FIN) "An Act relating to the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; and providing for an effective date."
(technical title change)

Signing do pass: Senator Olson, Cochair; Senator Kiehl. Signing do not pass: Senator Stedman, Cochair; Senators Kaufman, Cronk. Signing no recommendation: Senator Hoffman, Cochair. Signing amend: Senator Merrick.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Administration

The bill is on today's calendar.

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of House Bills

HB 78

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78(FIN) am(efd fld) "An Act relating to the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; and providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system" was read the second time.

Senator Hoffman, Cochair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Finance Senate Committee Substitute offered today. Senator Cronk objected, then withdrew his objection. Senator Stedman objected, then withdrew his objection. There being no further objection, SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78(FIN) "An Act relating to the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; and providing for an effective date" was adopted.

President Stevens stated SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78(FIN) will advance to third reading on the April 28 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 – David DeVaughn
Representative(s) Prax
Senator(s) Cronk, Myers

Honoring – Alaska Youth Orchestras 60th Anniversary
Senator(s) Giessel, Kiehl
Representative(s) Galvin

Honoring – Layla Hayes
Representative(s) Underwood

Honoring – Dr. Tess Caswell
Representative(s) Ruffridge, Elam
Senator(s) Bjorkman

Honoring – Kikkan Randall
Representative(s) Schrage, Eischeid, Fields

Honoring – Jim Biela
Representative(s) Jimmie, Dibert
Senator(s) Hoffman

Honoring – Dolena Ayaksaq Fox
Representative(s) Jimmie
Senator(s) Hoffman

Honoring – Scott MacManus
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

Honoring – Lantz Dahlke
Senator(s) Cronk

Honoring – Alaska Air National Guard 168th Wing 40th Anniversary
Representative(s) Gray
Senator(s) Kawasaki

Honoring – Kate Hall 2026 Special Education Administrator of the
Year
Representative(s) Stapp

Honoring – Nicholas Jackson
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

Honoring – The Dedication of Ruby Airport as Harold Esmailka
Airport
Senator(s) Cronk, Olson
Representative(s) Schwanke

Honoring – KuskoCon 2026
Senator(s) Dunbar, Tobin
Representative(s) Jimmie

Honoring – Alaska Behavioral Health Association 30th Anniversary
Senator(s) Dunbar, Gray-Jackson
Representative(s) Mina

Honoring – Katahdin Staples
Senator(s) Dunbar
Representative(s) Mina, Gray

Honoring – Aaron M. Schutt
Representative(s) Stapp, Dibert
Senator(s) Cronk

Honoring – John Hicks
Senator(s) Rauscher

Honoring – 2025-2026 Seward High School Girls Basketball Team
Senator(s) Bjorkman

Honoring – Bartlett High School Golden Bears Girls Basketball Team
Representative(s) Eischeid, D. Nelson
Senator(s) Wielechowski

Honoring – Rick Rizzs
Representative(s) Josephson

Honoring – Wrightway Auto Carriers 75th Anniversary
Senator(s) Tobin
Representative(s) D. Nelson, Fields

Honoring – All Alaska Pediatric Partnership 30th Anniversary
Representative(s) Galvin

Honoring – Valerie Casler
Representative(s) Gray, Mina
Senator(s) Tobin

In Memoriam – Mike Gordon
Representative(s) Galvin, Hall
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

In Memoriam – Pearl Rosebud Watson
Senator(s) Kawasaki
Representative(s) Dibert

In Memoriam – Lily Ungwiluk Miller
Senator(s) Kawasaki
Representative(s) Dibert

In Memoriam – Karen Solem Grussendorf
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) Stedman

In Memoriam – First Chief Nick Alexia Sr.
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

In Memoriam – Michael “Mike” James Kingston
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

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In Memoriam – Bill Stevens
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

In Memoriam – Nancy Harbour
Representative(s) Gray, Fields
Senator(s) Tobin

In Memoriam – Chief Warrant Officer Three Joseph Gilmore Riley
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

In Memoriam – John “Johnny” Johnson
Representative(s) Josephson

In Memoriam – Robert Redford
Representative(s) Josephson

In Memoriam – Bill Herman
Senator(s) Tobin
Representative(s) Fields, Mina

In Memoriam – Mother Viola Ford Fletcher
Representative(s) Josephson

In Memoriam – Stephen Haycox
Representative(s) Josephson, Fields
Senator(s) Tobin

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 Merrick moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from May 21 through June 5. Without objection, Senator Merrick 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 10:30 a.m., April 28, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 12:23 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

Apr 28 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 30 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 + HB 216 TRANSFER OF RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += SB 16 REFUSE UTILITY REGULATIONS
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

EDUCATION

Apr 27 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 66 STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACTS
 += SB 232 PERSONAL COLLECTION OF CERTAIN FOSSILS
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 29 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

May 01 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + Consideration of Governor's Appointees
 -- Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

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FINANCE

Apr 27 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ SB 208 AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES

-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 174 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

-- Invited & Public Testimony --

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 27 Monday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM

-- MEETING CANCELED --

-- Please Note Time Change --

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 28 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ HB 263 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;FUNDS;SUPP

+ HB 265 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET

-- Invited Testimony --

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 28 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM

-- Please Note Time Change --

+ HB 48 CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND

-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

+ HB 39 EDUCATION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 29 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ HB 263 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;FUNDS;SUPP

+ HB 265 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET

-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 29 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM

-- Please Note Time Change --

+ SB 217 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 251 REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION

-- Invited & Public Testimony --

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE (continued)

- Apr 30 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + SB 206 SCHOOL SUICIDE POLICIES; FIREARM STORAGE
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 30 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + SB 221 RESTRICTING STATE FUND FIDUCIARY
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- May 01 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- May 01 Friday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

- Apr 28 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 += SB 261 UNHOUSED YOUNG ADULTS: IDS, BIRTH CERT.
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Presentation: State Strategies for Addressing
 the Affordability Crisis in the Commercial Market:
 Michael Bailit, President, Bailit Health
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 30 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 + Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
 State Medical Board: Michael McNamara
 += SB 281 HEALTHCARE COMPACTS; RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

- Apr 27 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM**
 + Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Violent Crimes
 Compensation Board: Anna Cometa and Joel Hard
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (continued)

- Apr 29** **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 += HB 239 CRIM. NEG. HOMICIDE; FAILURE TO ASSIST
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- May 01** **Friday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 +
 Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:
 Attorney General, Department of Law: Stephen Cox
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 += SB 207 PROPERTY POSSESSION AND PROPERTY CRIMES
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

- Apr 27** **Monday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
 +
 Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:
 Alaska Labor Relations Agency
 Alaska Workers’ Compensation Board
 Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
 Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
 Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
 Board of Chiropractic Examiners
 Board of Dental Examiners
 Board of Examiners in Optometry
 Board of Massage Therapists
 Board of Nursing. Board of Pharmacy
 Board of Professional Counselors
 Board of Public Accountancy
 Board of Social Work Examiners
 Board of Veterinary Examiners
 Fishermen’s Fund Advisory and Appeals Council
 Marijuana Control Board
 State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors
 State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
 += SB 259 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT INCREASES
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 234 UNIFORM FIDUCIARY INCOME & PRINCIPAL ACT
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + HB 126 REINSTATEMENT NATIVE CORP/RELIGIOUS CORP
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

- Apr 29 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**
 + SB 266 INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT RATES
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
- + SB 262 SOCIAL MEDIA/MINORS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- May 01 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM**
 + SB 262 SOCIAL MEDIA/MINORS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + SB 150 NET METERING PROGRAM & FUND
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES

- Apr 27 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 28 Tuesday Butrovich 205 9:00 AM**
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 29 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 30 Thursday Butrovich 205 9:00 AM**
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES (continued)

May 01 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 28 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
 Veronica Lambertsen, Police Standards Council
 <Above Appointee has Withdrawn>
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + HB 25 DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + HB 13 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 + HB 278 ECONOMIC DEV:AK-IRELAND TRADE COMM.
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 30 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
 Stephen Cox, Alaska Attorney General Designee
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 169 WELCOMING ALASKA OFFICE
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

May 02 Saturday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 -- Scheduled Time May Change --
 + HB 176 UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FEES
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + HB 13 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS
 -- Public Testimony --
 + SB 169 WELCOMING ALASKA OFFICE
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 += SB 243 DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WEAPON
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 204 SUB. TEACHING; SCHOOL BOARD ELIGIBILITY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

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TRANSPORTATION

Apr 28	Tuesday No Meeting Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
Apr 30	Thursday No Meeting Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM



JOINT COMMITTEES

TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FUNDING

Apr 29 +	Wednesday Presentation: Shared Responsibility in Education Funding by Peter Micciche, Mayor, Kenai Peninsula Borough An Overview of Required Local Contribution by Conor Bell, Analyst, Legislative Finance Division Local Contribution and Mill Rate by Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League Federal Education Funding in Alaska by Kelly Manning, Deputy Director; Deb Riddle, Operations Manager; Courtney Preziosi, Elementary and Secondary Education Act Administrator; Monique Siverly, Operations Manager; and Heather Heineken, Director, Department of Education and Early Development Impact Aid Transition in New Mexico by John Sena, Executive Director, Legislative Education Study Committee, New Mexico Legislature **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Davis 106	3:30 PM
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