

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

April 29, 2026

One Hundredth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:02 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 with humility and gratitude, acknowledging that every good and perfect gift comes from You. You are the source of wisdom, justice, and truth. As it is written, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach" (James 1:5).

In alignment with James, I pray that You would give wisdom generously to these leaders. Guide their hearts and minds, for though we make our plans, it is You who establishes our steps. Let every decision be shaped by Your truth and grounded in what is right.

Your Word calls me to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. May that calling rest upon this body today. Where there is disagreement, bring unity; where there is challenge, grant clarity; and where there is responsibility, give strength and integrity.

May this chamber be a place where truth is spoken, where the common good is pursued, and where Your light shines through every action taken.

I ask for Your blessing over this body and this Great State of Alaska.

In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen.

Senator Olson led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Messages from the Governor

Letters dated April 28 were read stating in accordance with Article III, sections 26 and 27 of the Alaska Constitution, and AS 39.05.080, I submit the following appointees for confirmation:

State Medical Board

Hannah Mielke – Big Lake

Appointed: 4/28/2026

Term Expires: 3/1/2029

The appointment was referred to the Health and Social Services Committee.

Board of Fisheries

Mike Wood – Talkeetna

Appointed: 7/1/2023

Term Expires: 7/1/2026

Reappointed: 7/1/2026

Term Expires: 7/1/2029

Blair Hickson – Wasilla

Appointed: 7/1/2026

Term Expires: 7/1/2029

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Paul Cyr – Ketchikan

Appointed: 7/1/2026

Term Expires: 7/1/2029

Board of Game

Stanley Hoffman, Jr.– Bethel

Appointed: 11/13/2008

Term Expired: 7/1/2011

Reappointed: 7/1/2011

Term Expired: 7/1/2014

Reappointed: 7/1/2017

Term Expired: 6/30/2020

Reappointed: 6/30/2020

Term Expired: 7/1/2023

Reappointed: 7/1/2023

Term Expires: 7/1/2026

Reappointed: 7/1/2026

Term Expires: 7/1/2029

Jacob Fletcher – Talkeetna

Appointed: 6/30/2020

Term Expired: 7/1/2023

Reappointed: 7/1/2023

Term Expires: 7/1/2026

Reappointed: 7/1/2026

Term Expires: 7/1/2029

David Lorring – Fairbanks

Appointed: 7/1/2023

Term Expires: 7/1/2026

Reappointed: 7/1/2026

Term Expires: 7/1/2029

The appointments were referred to the Resources Committee.

The resumes for these appointments have been submitted to the Office of the Senate Secretary.

Communications

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

Department of Public Safety

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

2025 Annual Report

in accordance with AS 18.66.050

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board

2025 Annual Report

in accordance with AS 19.65.180

Standing Committee Reports**SB 261**

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 261 "An Act relating to the issuance of certified copies of birth certificates to unhoused young adults; and relating to the issuance of identification cards to unhoused young adults" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 261(HSS)

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Myers, Tobin, Giessel.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Administration

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Consideration of the Calendar**Third Reading of Senate Bills****SB 239**

SENATE BILL NO. SENATE BILL NO. 239 "An Act relating to the registration and titling of legally imported motor vehicles; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 239 "An Act relating to the registration and titling of legally imported motor vehicles; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SB 239

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, SENATE BILL NO. 239 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.

Senators Rauscher, Kaufman, Merrick, Yundt moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on the bill. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Third Reading of House Bills

HB 26

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRA) "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRA) "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SCS CSHB 26(TRA)

Third Reading - Final Passage

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

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

Nays: Kaufman, Rauscher, Stedman, Tilton

and so, SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRA) passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on the bill. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Citations

Honoring – Elsie Vent
Senator(s) Cronk
Representative(s) Schwanke

Honoring – Chugiak High School Mustangs Girls Cross Country
Team
Senator(s) Merrick

Honoring – Team USA’s Women’s Olympic Hockey Team
Senator(s) Merrick

Honoring – Joy Barrows-Thompson
Senator(s) Merrick

Honoring – Eagle River High School Baseball Team
Senator(s) Merrick

Honoring – University of Alaska Anchorage & Idaho State University
Doctor of Pharmacy Program 10th Anniversary
Representative(s) Mina, Ruffridge
Senator(s) Giessel

In Memoriam – Sandra “Sandie” Lynn Taylor
Senator(s) Cronk

In Memoriam – Elstun Lauesen
Representative(s) Galvin, Gray
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

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

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment**SB 239**

SENATE BILL NO. 239 "An Act relating to the registration and titling of legally imported motor vehicles; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

HB 26

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRA) "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., May 1, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:18 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 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 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

FINANCE

Apr 29 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 += 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

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FINANCE (continued)

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:
- += HB 263 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;FUNDS;SUPP
- += HB 265 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
 - Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 - **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Apr 30 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

- + SB 206 SCHOOL SUICIDE POLICIES; FIREARM STORAGE
 - Invited & Public Testimony --
 - Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
- += HB 263 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;FUNDS;SUPP
- += HB 265 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
 - Testimony <Invitation Only> --
- += HB 48 CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND
 - Testimony <Invitation Only> --
- += HB 39 EDUCATION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING
 - Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 - **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 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 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 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

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RESOURCES

- 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**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 += SB 280 OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- 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 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) 10:00 AM**
 -- Please Note Time 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

TRANSPORTATION

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

JOINT COMMITTEES

TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FUNDING

Apr 29 **Wednesday** **Davis 106** **3:30 PM**

-- Meeting Rescheduled to 5/6/26 at 3:30 PM --

+ 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

May 06 **Wednesday** **Davis 106** **3:30 PM**

-- Meeting Rescheduled from 4/29/26 --

+ 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