

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

September 12, 2025

1:02 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson, Chair  
Representative Zack Fields, Vice Chair  
Senator Cathy Giessel (via teleconference)  
Senator Bill Wielechowski (via teleconference)  
Representative Andy Josephson  
Representative Chuck Kopp  
Representative Cathy Tilton  
Senator Scott Kawasaki (alternate) (via teleconference)  
Representative Bryce Edgmon (alternate) (via teleconference)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Bert Stedman  
Senator Lyman Hoffman  
Representative Neal Foster

**OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT**

Representative Julie Coulombe

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
FINAL RELEASE OF AUDITS  
PRELIMINARY RELEASE OF SUNSET AUDITS  
CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR PERSONNEL  
MATTER  
LEGAL UPDATE ON THE SPECIAL AUDIT

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to record

**WITNESS REGISTER**

No witnesses to record

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:02:20 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON called the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Representatives Josephson, Kopp, Tilton, Edgmon (via teleconference), and Fields and Senators Wielechowski (via teleconference), Giessel (via teleconference), Kawasaki (via teleconference), and Gray-Jackson were present at the call to order. Also present was Representative Coulombe.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

[1:03:46 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the first order of business would be the approval of the agenda.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS moved that the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee approve the agenda. There being no objection, the agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[1:04:03 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the next order of business would be the approval of the minutes.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS moved to approve the minutes for the June 30, 2025, and August 21, 2025, meetings. There being no objection, the minutes were approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

[1:04:17 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the next order of business would be executive session for consideration of the final release of sunset audits of the Real Estate Commission, the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, the Board of Professional Counselors, and the Board of Social Work Examiners; the preliminary release of sunset audits of the Board of Marital & Family Therapy and the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners; the consideration of a contract for outside counsel for a personnel matter; and to

receive a legal update on the special audit titled, "Oil and Gas Production Tax Audit Process."

[1:04:57 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR FIELDS moved that the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee go into executive session under Uniform Rule 22(b)(1) for the discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit, and Uniform Rule 22(b)(3) for the discussion of matters that may, by law, be required to be confidential. He asked that the following persons remain in the room or online: Kris Curtis, legislative auditor, and necessary staff; Emily Nauman; any legislators not on the committee; and staff of legislators on the committee. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

[1:05:38 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 1:05 p.m. to 2:04 p.m. for the purpose of executive session.

[2:04:52 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON called the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee meeting back to order at 2:04 p.m. Representatives Josephson, Kopp, Tilton, Edgmon (via teleconference), and Fields and Senators Wielechowski (via teleconference), Giessel (via teleconference), Kawasaki (via teleconference), and Gray-Jackson were present at the call to order. Also present was Representative Coulombe.

#### **FINAL RELEASE OF AUDITS**

[2:05:29 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the next order of business would be the final release of audits.

VICE CHAIR FIELDS moved that the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee release the following audits as final audit reports: the Real Estate Commission, the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, the Board of Professional Counselors, and the Board of Social Work Examiners. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

#### **PRELIMINARY RELEASE OF SUNSET AUDITS**

[2:05:56 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the next order of business would be the preliminary release of sunset audits.

VICE CHAIR FIELDS moved that the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee release the following preliminary sunset audits to the agencies for response: the Board of Marital and Family Therapy and the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR PERSONNEL  
MATTER**

[2:06:24 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the next order of business would be consideration of a contract for outside counsel for a personnel matter.

VICE CHAIR FIELDS moved that the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee authorize a contract for legal services, not to exceed \$195,000, to be paid from existing funds, relating to a personnel matter. He further moved that the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee authorize the Legislative Auditor and chair to give direction to Legislative Legal Services and outside legal counsel regarding the matter. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

**LEGAL UPDATE ON THE SPECIAL AUDIT**

[2:07:00 PM](#)

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON announced that the final order of business would be a legal update on the special audit titled, "Oil and Gas Production Tax Audit Process."

CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON gave the following prepared statement:

While we were in Executive Session, the committee received a brief legal update on the Special Audit titled "Oil and Gas Production Tax Audit Process." Per statute, the audit process is confidential, and neither I nor any members of the committee are permitted to comment publicly on this matter at this stage.

We recognize that there is strong public interest in the outcome of this audit, and we share the commitment to transparency and accountability. However, to preserve the independence and integrity of the audit process, it must remain confidential until its formal release by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding as this work proceeds.

[2:08:50 PM](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.