

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 18, 2025

1:35 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Kelly Merrick, Chair  
Senator Forrest Dunbar, Vice Chair  
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Senator Robert Yundt

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Donald Olson

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE BILL NO. 26

"An Act petitioning the United States Department of Transportation to change the time zones of Alaska; exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 102

"An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 26

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

SPONSOR(S): MERRICK

01/10/25	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/25
01/22/25	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25	(S)	CRA, STA
03/11/25	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/11/25	(S)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/18/25	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 102

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
SPONSOR(s): STATE AFFAIRS

02/19/25	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/19/25	(S)	CRA, STA
03/11/25	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/11/25	(S)	Heard & Held
03/11/25	(S)	MINUTE (CRA)
03/18/25	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

KERRY CROCKER, Staff  
Senator Kelly Merrick  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Introduced SB 26 and presented the sectional analysis on behalf of the sponsor.

JOE HAYES, Staff  
Senator Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented survey results on SB 102.

SENATOR SCOTT KAWASAKI, District P  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Thanked committee members for hearing SB 102 again.

JAY PEA, President  
Save Standard Time  
Phoenix, Arizona

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony in support of SB 102.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:35:27 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Dunbar, Yundt, Gray-Jackson, and Chair Merrick.

#### **SB 26-ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

[1:35:59 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 26 "An Act petitioning the United States Department of Transportation to change the time zones of Alaska; exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

CHAIR MERRICK said that her constituents are staunch opponents of time change. She mentioned that SB 26 models a bill proposed by former Senator Anna MacKinnon, whose daylight-saving time bill advanced further than others.

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KERRY CROCKER, Staff, Senator Kelly Merrick, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, introduced SB 26 and presented the sectional analysis on behalf of the sponsor.

MR. CROCKER stated that Alaskans have voiced concerns about daylight saving time (DST) and the state's time zone for 25 years. The Alaska State Legislature has introduced thirteen bills on the subject. He explained that SB 26 proposes to address these issues through two key provisions:

- No More Clock Flip Flop

Section 1 would permanently eliminate DST, meaning Alaskans would no longer "spring forward" or "fall back." The state would stay on one time all year. It would keep mornings brighter in the winter and eliminate biannual clock change confusion. He drew attention to the first sections of SB 26 and SB 102, noting that they are identical.

- A Time Zone Tune-Up

Section 2 would petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to place all of the state within the Pacific Standard Time (PST) zone. He explained that all of Alaska is currently in the Alaska Time Zone. SB 26 proposes to change this, it would sync Alaska with the West Coast, making managing business, travel, and TV schedules easier.

MR. CROCKER said that the proposed exemption from daylight saving time, in Section 1, would take effect only if the federal government approves the change to PST by January 1, 2035. If the request is denied, Alaska's time zone would remain unchanged. The official petition in Section 2, would be submitted immediately.

MR. CROCKER said the bottom line is that SB 26 aims to simplify Alaska's timekeeping, eliminate annoying clock changes, and make life easier for Alaskans.

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MR. CROCKER presented the sectional analysis for SB 26:

[Original punctuation provided.]

**Section 1. Amends AS 44.12 - Exemption from Daylight Saving Time (AS 44.12.400)**

- Exempts the state of Alaska from the observation of daylight-saving time (DST).

**Section 2. Amends the Uncodified Law of the State of Alaska - Petition to the US Department of Transportation to Change Alaska's Time Zone**

- Directs the Alaska State Legislature to formally petition the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to move the entire state to the Pacific Standard Time (PST) zone.
- Requests the USDOT to initiate proceedings under the Uniform Time Act of 1966.

**Section 3. Conditional Effect of Section 1**

- States that Section 1 (the exemption from DST) will only take effect if the USDOT places the entire state of Alaska within the Pacific Standard Time zone on or before January 1, 2035.

**Section 4. Immediate Effect of Section 2**

- Provides that Section 2, which initiates the petition to the USDOT, takes effect immediately upon the passage of the Act.

**Section 5. Effective Date of Section 1**

- Specifies that if Section 1 (the exemption from DST) takes effect, it will do so on the effective date of the placement of all of Alaska into the Pacific Standard Time zone by the USDOT.

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CHAIR MERRICK asked why the passage of Section 1 alone would create problems for commerce in Alaska.

MR. CROCKER replied that industries such as tourism, banking, and travel face challenges when operating in a time zone further removed from New York and the West Coast. He said that SB 26 aims to address this issue.

CHAIR MERRICK found no further questions.

[SB 26 was held in committee.]

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At ease.

**SB 102-ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

[1:41:42 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 102 "An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

CHAIR MERRICK invited Senator Kawasaki and his staff to briefly reintroduce SB 102, sponsored by the Senate State Affairs Committee.

[1:42:09 PM](#)

JOE HAYES, Staff, Senator Scott Kawasaki, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented survey results on SB 102.

SENATOR SCOTT KAWASAKI, District P, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, thanked committee members for hearing SB 102 again.

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MR. HAYES distributed a handout of survey results related to SB 102 and discussed its findings. The handout is posted on The Alaska State Legislature website. He informed the committee that the survey had been live for only one week and was still accepting responses.

MR. HAYES expressed his relatively strong feeling that the citizens of Alaska support eliminating daylight saving time.

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CHAIR MERRICK announced invited testimony on SB 102.

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JAY PEA, President, Save Standard Time, Phoenix, Arizona, gave invited testimony in support of SB 102. He said that he is also the co-chair for the Coalition for Permanent Standard Time, a collaboration with eight nonprofit health and safety organizations. He advised voting "no" on SB 26 and "yes" on SB 102. He said that he wants to "ditch the switch" and "lock the clock" as most voters wish to do. He recommended doing this in the quickest way possible, the federally approved way, permanent standard time. This is the safest, healthiest, and most lasting way per the lessons of history and science.

MR. PEA said that daylight saving time is simply a mandate to wake early and to sleep less. When the clock is turned ahead one hour, the alarm clock sounds one hour earlier the next day and everyday thereafter until the clock is set back to standard time. He said that daylight saving time was originally intended only for the summer; it was never intended for winter. It does not go well in the winter. Daylight saving time deprives individuals an average of 19 minutes of sleep every night. This leads to more illnesses and more fatal accidents, which increases health care costs and cost lives.

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MR. PEA said that permanent daylight saving time would delay sunrise in Anchorage past 9:00 a.m., resulting in four and half months of morning darkness at 9:00 a.m. Sunrise after 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage currently occurs for one month; this would become three months with permanent daylight time. The latest sunrise would change from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. with permanent daylight time. Sunrise is progressively later moving out to Western Alaska where the sunrise would occur after noon with permanent daylight time. He stated that this makes sunrise too late.

MR. PEA emphasized that permanent Pacific Standard Time (PST) is equivalent to permanent Alaska Daylight Time but noted that this is federally prohibited. He explained that the U.S. Department of Transportation has never allowed an entire state to change times zones as proposed in SB 26. In short, summers will always have longer daylight and winters will always have shorter daylight.

MR. PEA said that permanent standard time is the natural clock, aligning with the sun at 12:00 p.m., high noon, and providing a balance of morning and evening light. He emphasized that morning

light is important for school children, commuters, outdoor laborers, and service personnel. Morning light supports sleep, mood, health, safety, education, and productivity. He stated that this is the view of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, the American Academy of Neurology, the National Safety Council, and the Bloomberg Editorial Board across all latitudes and longitudes.

MR. PEA said that Arizona and Hawaii have had permanent standard time for decades and have functioned well. He said that most nations also follow permanent standard time. He said more states are considering permanent standard time, including California, Texas, and New York. He said that a Gallup Poll found nearly half of Americans want a standard time and only a quarter want permanent daylight time. He reiterated that permanent standard time is federally approved. He urged the passage of SB 102 to end the clock change. He asked the committee to vote "no" on SB 26 and "yes" on SB 102.

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CHAIR MERRICK found no further discussion on SB 102.

[SB 102 was held in committee.]

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There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Merrick adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 1:48 p.m.