

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 3, 2026**  
**1:31 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRA) AM  
"An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan."

- MOVED CSHB 26(TRA) AM OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 129

"An Act establishing a 30-day deadline for the payment of contracts under the State Procurement Code; establishing deadlines for the payment of grants, contracts, and reimbursement agreements to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and Alaska Native organizations; relating to payment of grants to named recipients that are not municipalities; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 129 OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 26

SHORT TITLE: STATEWIDE PUBLIC & COMMUNITY TRANSIT PLAN

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) MINA

01/22/25	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/25
01/22/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25	(H)	CRA, TRA
02/27/25	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
02/27/25	(H)	Heard & Held

02/27/25 (H) MINUTE (CRA)  
 03/18/25 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124  
 03/18/25 (H) Heard & Held  
 03/18/25 (H) MINUTE (CRA)  
 03/20/25 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124  
 03/20/25 (H) Moved CSHB 26 (CRA) Out of Committee  
 03/20/25 (H) MINUTE (CRA)  
 03/21/25 (H) CRA RPT CS (CRA) 4DP 1DNP 1AM  
 03/21/25 (H) DP: HOLLAND, HALL, HIMSCHOOT, MEARS  
 03/21/25 (H) DNP: PRAX  
 03/21/25 (H) AM: RUFFRIDGE  
 03/27/25 (H) TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124  
 03/27/25 (H) Heard & Held  
 03/27/25 (H) MINUTE (TRA)  
 04/01/25 (H) TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124  
 04/01/25 (H) Heard & Held  
 04/01/25 (H) MINUTE (TRA)  
 04/10/25 (H) TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124  
 04/10/25 (H) Moved CSHB 26 (TRA) Out of Committee  
 04/10/25 (H) MINUTE (TRA)  
 04/11/25 (H) TRA RPT CS (TRA) 5DP 2DNP  
 04/11/25 (H) DP: MOORE, MINA, STUTES, EISCHEID,  
 CARRICK  
 04/11/25 (H) DNP: MCCABE, TILTON  
 05/02/25 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
 05/02/25 (H) VERSION: CSHB 26 (TRA) AM  
 05/05/25 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 05/05/25 (S) CRA, TRA  
 05/15/25 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
 05/15/25 (S) Heard & Held  
 05/15/25 (S) MINUTE (CRA)  
 05/20/25 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
 05/20/25 (S) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 01/27/26 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
 01/27/26 (S) Heard & Held  
 01/27/26 (S) MINUTE (CRA)  
 02/03/26 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 129

SHORT TITLE: PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS

SPONSOR (s): SENATOR (s) KAWASAKI

03/12/25 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 03/12/25 (S) CRA, L&C  
 04/01/25 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
 04/01/25 (S) Heard & Held  
 04/01/25 (S) MINUTE (CRA)

04/08/25 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
04/08/25 (S) Heard & Held  
04/08/25 (S) MINUTE(CRA)  
04/29/25 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
04/29/25 (S) Heard & Held  
04/29/25 (S) MINUTE(CRA)  
02/03/26 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

CLAIRE WARNCKE, Staff  
Representative Genevieve Mina  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified that she was available to answer questions on HB 26.

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

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SB 129.

JENNA COLQUHOUN, Staff  
Senator Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions on SB 129.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:31:45 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Gray-Jackson, Yundt, Olson, and Chair Merrick. Senator Dunbar arrived immediately thereafter.

CHAIR MERRICK announced an at ease, reconvened the meeting, and noted the arrival of Senator Dunbar.

#### **HB 26-STATEWIDE PUBLIC & COMMUNITY TRANSIT PLAN**

[1:32:43 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRA) am "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan."

CHAIR MERRICK said this is the third hearing of HB 26 in the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee. She invited the bill sponsor's staff to make comments.

[1:33:11 PM](#)

CLAIRE WARNCKE, Staff, Representative Genevieve Mina, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, testified that she was available to answer questions on HB 26.

[1:33:21 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK found no discussion or questions.

CHAIR MERRICK solicited the will of the committee.

[1:33:29 PM](#)

SENATOR DUNBAR moved to report CSHB 26(TRA) am, work order 34-LS0276\I.A, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s) and authorized Legislative Legal Services to make conforming changes.

[1:33:46 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK found no objection and CSHB 26(TRA) am was reported from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

[1:33:51 PM](#)

At ease.

### **SB 129-PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS**

[1:35:29 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 129 "An Act establishing a 30-day deadline for the payment of contracts under the State Procurement Code; establishing deadlines for the payment of grants, contracts, and reimbursement agreements to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and Alaska Native organizations; relating to payment of grants to named recipients that are not municipalities; and providing for an effective date."

CHAIR MERRICK said this is the fourth hearing of SB 129 in the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee. She invited the bill sponsor to put himself on the record to briefly reintroduce the bill.

[1:35:52 PM](#)

SENATOR SCOTT KAWASAKI, District P, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 129, expressed appreciation to

committee members for their willingness to move the bill forward. He said SB 129 is a good business bill and a good government bill. He explained that the intent of SB 129 is to improve efficiency and ensure State contractors are paid in a timely manner.

[1:36:24 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK invited committee members to ask questions.

[1:36:29 PM](#)

SENATOR YUNDT sought confirmation that SB 129 defines prompt payment as 30 days.

[1:36:40 PM](#)

JENNA COLQUHOUN, Staff, Senator Scott Kawasaki, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, answered in the affirmative, stating 30 days is the deadline.

[1:36:50 PM](#)

SENATOR YUNDT expressed appreciation for the bill's intent but raised concerns about the pressure a 30-day deadline could place on accounting offices. He said that during a given month, accounting offices experience periods of heavy workload, and coupled with holidays, the 30-day deadline could create complications. He indicated that he recommended an amendment extending the deadline to 45 to 59 days and said it is something to consider to improve the bill.

[1:37:48 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK solicited the will of the committee.

[1:37:50 PM](#)

SENATOR DUNBAR moved to report SB 129, work order [34-LS0690\N,] from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s) and authorized Legislative Legal Services to make conforming changes.

[1:38:07 PM](#)

At ease.

[1:38:23 PM](#)

[CHAIR MERRICK reconvened the meeting.]

SENATOR DUNBAR clarified that the work order number is 34-LS0690\N.

[1:38:35 PM](#)

CHAIR MERRICK found no objection and SB 129 was reported from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

1:38:59 PM

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Merrick adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 1:39 p.m.