

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
May 14, 2025  
9:08 a.m.

[9:08:37 AM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Hoffman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair  
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair  
Senator Mike Cronk  
Senator James Kaufman  
Senator Jesse Kiehl  
Senator Kelly Merrick

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Calvin Schrage, Sponsor; Liz Harpold, Staff, Senator Donny Olson; Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Sponsor; Representative Louise Stutes, Sponsor; Matt Gruening, Staff, Senator Louise Stutes; Tracy Welch, Executive Director, United Fishermen of Alaska; Ella Atkison, Staff, Senator Jesse Kiehl; Senator Cathy Giessel.

SUMMARY

SB 132      OMNIBUS INSURANCE BILL

CSSB 132(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with seven "do pass" recommendations and with one previously published fiscal note: FN 1(CED).

SB 156      AK COMMERCIAL FISHING and AG BANK; LOANS

SB 156 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

CSHB 16 (STA)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE; CONTRIBUTION LIMITS;APOC

CSHB 16 (STA) was REPORTED out of committee with three "do pass" recommendations, four "amend" recommendations, and one previously published fiscal note: FN 1 (ADM).

HB 31 VESSELS: REGISTRATION/DERELICT FUND

HB 31 was REPORTED out of committee with seven "do pass" recommendations and with four previously published fiscal notes: FN 1 (DFG), FN 2 (ADM), FN 3 (DNR), and FN 4 (CED).

#hb16

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 16 (STA)

"An Act requiring a group supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposition in a state or local election to maintain an address in the state; amending campaign contribution limits for state and local office; directing the Alaska Public Offices Commission to adjust campaign contribution limits for state and local office once each decade beginning in 2031; relating to campaign contribution reporting requirements; relating to administrative complaints filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to state election expenditures and contributions made by a foreign-influenced corporation or foreign national; and providing for an effective date."

9:10:04 AM

AT EASE

9:11:32 AM

RECONVENED

9:11:40 AM

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SCHRAGE, SPONSOR, reintroduced the legislation.

Senator Kaufman MOVED to ADOPT Amendment 1, 34-LS0217\N.20, Bullard, 5/6/25 (copy on file):

Page 2, line 23:  
Delete "\$2 000" 3  
Insert "\$3.500" 4

Page 2, line 27:  
Delete all material and insert:  
"(2) \$10 000 each [\$5,000 PER] year to a political party 8 (3) \$5.000 each year to a group that is not a political party."

Page 2, line 31:  
Delete "\$4 000" 12 Insert "\$5,000"

Page 3, line 7:  
Delete "\$4 000" 16 Insert "\$5.000"

Page 3, line 15:  
Delete "\$4 000" 20 Insert "\$7 000"

Page 3, line 17:  
Delete "\$8 000"  
Insert '1 \$10 000"

Co-Chair Hoffman OBJECTED for discussion.

Senator Kaufman explained the Amendment. He stated that the amendment would line the campaign contribution limits with the federal limit.

Representative Schrage expressed concern, given that Alaskan voters had supported lower limits. He, however, appreciated the member's concerns.

[9:14:45 AM](#)

Senator Cronk expressed support of the amendment. He remarked that campaigning could be expensive in rural districts, and often required travel costs.

Co-Chair Hoffman stated that the bill and amendment would be taken up at the end of the meeting.

#sb132  
SENATE BILL NO. 132

"An Act relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date."

9:16:20 AM

Senator Kaufman MOVED to ADOPT the proposed committee substitute for SB 132, Work Draft 34-LS0415\T (Wallace, 5/9/25).

Co-Chair Hoffman OBJECTED for discussion.

9:16:47 AM

LIZ HARPOLD, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, discussed the Explanation of Changes (copy on file):

Section 41: Repeals AS 21.36.475(b) subsection (4) to clean up language around exceptions to owner controlled and contractor controlled insurance programs.

Section 44: Updates the definition of elected official to include members of regional school board for a regional educational attendance area.

Section 58: Requires one-quarter of the governing board of an HMO to be consumers instead of one member.

9:17:54 AM

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN, SPONSOR, supported the committee substitute.

Co-Chair Hoffman REMOVED his OBJECTION. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Senator Bjorkman thanked the committee.

Senator Kaufman MOVED to REPORT HB 31 from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

CSSB 132(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with seven "do pass" recommendations and with one previously published fiscal note: FN 1(CED).

9:19:08 AM

AT EASE

[9:21:04 AM](#)

RECONVENED

#hb31

HOUSE BILL NO. 31

"An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and relating to the derelict vessel prevention program fund."

[9:21:56 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES, SPONSOR, introduced the bill. She stated that the bill contained the exact same language as a bill from the previous legislature. She stated that the bill removed duplicative registration requirements created by the passage of SB 92 (from 2018).

Senator Kiehl wondered whether the bill allowed for the possibility of owners of boats abandoning their boats.

[9:25:50 AM](#)

MATT GRUENING, STAFF, SENATOR LOUISE STUTES, replied in the negative.

Co-Chair Stedman remarked that the issue was about the derelict vessels.

TRACY WELCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA, testified in support of the bill.

Co-Chair Hoffman OPENED public testimony.

Co-Chair Hoffman CLOSED public testimony.

Senator Kiehl reviewed the fiscal notes.

[9:30:56 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman MOVED to REPORT HB 31 from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal notes. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Senator Stutes noted that there was a very collaborate working relationship with

HB 31 was REPORTED out of committee with seven "do pass" recommendations and with four previously published fiscal notes: FN 1 (DFG), FN 2 (ADM), FN 3 (DNR), and FN 4 (CED).

[9:31:32 AM](#)

AT EASE

[9:33:41 AM](#)

RECONVENED

#sb156

SENATE BILL NO. 156

"An Act relating to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; relating to the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; relating to certain loans made by the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; and providing for an effective date."

[9:33:41 AM](#)

Senator Kiehl reintroduced the legislation.

Senator Merrick MOVED to ADOPT the committee substitute for SB 156, Work Draft 34-LS0857\H (Bullard, 5/12/25).

Co-Chair Hoffman OBJECTED for discussion.

[9:35:54 AM](#)

ELLA ATKISON, STAFF, SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, discussed the Explanation of Changes (copy on file):

- Requires any loans originated or refinanced by CFAB using state funds be secured by a limited entry permit.
- Repeals the lower interest rate for the Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund on July 1, 2026, instead of July 1, 2027.

[9:36:32 AM](#)

AT EASE

[9:36:43 AM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Hoffman WITHDREW his OBJECTION. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

SB 156 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#hb16

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 16 (STA)

"An Act requiring a group supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposition in a state or local election to maintain an address in the state; amending campaign contribution limits for state and local office; directing the Alaska Public Offices Commission to adjust campaign contribution limits for state and local office once each decade beginning in 2031; relating to campaign contribution reporting requirements; relating to administrative complaints filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to state election expenditures and contributions made by a foreign-influenced corporation or foreign national; and providing for an effective date."

[9:37:11 AM](#)

AT EASE

[9:40:36 AM](#)

RECONVENED

Senator Kaufman MOVED Amendment 1 (again), and reexamined the amendment.

Senator Kiehl OPPOSED the AMENDMENT.

Co-Chair Stedman liked the amendment, but felt opposed to the amendment due to the public opinion.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

IN FAVOR: Merrick, Cronk, Kaufman

OPPOSED: Hoffman, Kiehl, Olson, Stedman

The motion FAILED 3/4.

Representative Schrage thanked the committee.

Senator Kiehl MOVED to REPORT CSHB 16(STA) from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

9:44:57 AM

AT EASE

9:46:55 AM

RECONVENED

CSHB 16(STA) was REPORTED out of committee with three "do pass" recommendations, four "amend" recommendations, and one previously published fiscal note: FN 1(ADM).

#

ADJOURNMENT

9:47:31 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.