



**State of Alaska
Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Workers' Compensation**

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Public Meeting Packet

May 14-15, 2026

For more information, contact:
Division of Workers' Compensation
labor.alaska.gov/wc/ | (907) 465-2790

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TAB 1

Page 4

Agenda

TAB 2

Page 7

Page 12

Board Minutes

January 8, 2026

February 19, 2026

TAB 3

Page 15

Board Member Roster

TAB 4

Page 17

Board Designees

TAB 5

Page 19

Page 29

Director's Report

Director's Report

Organization Staffing Chart

TAB 6

Page 31

2027 Hearing Calendar

TAB 1

ALASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD MEETING AGENDA

May 14-15, 2026

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Zoom Video Conference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82838766736>

To participate telephonically: 833-548-0276, Webinar ID: 828 3876 6736

Thursday, May 14, 2026

- 9:00am** Call to order
Roll call establishment of quorum
Introduction of Senior Staff
- 9:10am** Approval of Agenda
- 9:15am** Reading and approval of minutes from January 8 and 9, 2026, Board meeting
Reading and Approval of Special Board February 19, 2026, meeting minutes.
- 9:30am** Director's Report
- Division Update
 - Approval of Board Designees
 - AWCB 2026-2027 Hearing Calendars
 - MSRC updates
 - AMA Guides update
- 10:00am** Break
- 10:15am** Public Comment Period
- Public comments
- 11:15am** Budget & Staffing Update – Alexis Hildebrand, Admin Officer
- 12:00pm** Lunch Break
- 1:30pm** Ethics Training – Matthew Stinson
- 2:30am** Old Business
- Regulation proposals from past Board meetings
- 3:00pm** Break
- 3:15pm** New Business
- Regulation proposals from staff
 - AWCB 2027 Hearing Calendar
- 5:00pm** Adjournment

Friday, May 15, 2026

9:00am Call to order
Roll call establishment of quorum

9:10am New Business continued

10:30am Break

10:45am New Business Continued

11:50pm Lunch Break

1:30pm New Business Continued

3:30pm Break

3:45pm New Business Continued

5:00pm Adjournment



TAB 2

Workers' Compensation Board
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Charles Collins called the meeting to order at 9:03 am in Anchorage, Alaska. Participation was available both in person and via video conference.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present, constituting a quorum:

Brad Austin	Randy Beltz	Pamela Cline	John Corbett
Mike Dennis	Sara Faulkner	Bronson Frye	Anthony Ladd
Sarah Lefebvre	Debbie White	Lake Williams	Brian Zematis

Member Randall McLellan was excused.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Zematis moved to approve the agenda; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23-24, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Member Austin moved to approve the minutes; Member Beltz seconded. The minutes were adopted without objection.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Collins presented the updated list of Board designees. Member Austin moved to approve the list; Member White seconded. The designees were approved without objection.

Director Collins also provided updates on Board terms and vacancies, pending legislation, emerging issues, and revenue trends. He presented the Division's progress with Administrative Order 360 and reviewed statistics from the first year of the stay-at-work program.

Alexis Hildebrand, Administrative Operations Manager, provided staffing and budget updates.

Break 10:01–10:15 a.m.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

No public comment was received.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

8 AAC 45.083 – Medical Treatment and Service Fees

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the amendment of 8 AAC 45.083; Member Frye seconded. The Board discussed and confirmed that all proposed repealed sub-paragraphs (b–l) are now incorporated into the Medical Fee Schedule and are therefore obsolete. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.092(b) – Creating the List of SIME Physicians

This amendment was approved by the Board at the May 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

8 AAC 45.092(h) – Preparing Medical Records for SIME

This amendment was approved by the Board at the May 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

8 AAC 45.176(d)(3) – “Aggravating Factors” for Assessment of Civil Penalties

This amendment was approved by the Board at the May 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

8 AAC 45.180(b) and (d) – Attorney Fees

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the amendment of 8 AAC 45.180 as provided in the addendum to the packet; Member Austin seconded. The Board modified subparagraph (b) to reorganize the types of itemizations. Member Lefebvre amended the motion to include the changes discussed; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Member Corbett absent for the vote.

8 AAC 45.900(j) – Definition of “Previously Rehabilitated”

Member Zematis moved to approve the amendment of 8 AAC 45.900(j); Member White seconded. Hearing Officer William Soule explained that 8 AAC 45.900(j) is not aligned with the legislative intent of AS 23.30.041. Amendments adopted in 2005 were intended to disqualify employees from future reemployment benefits only when an employee had completed a reemployment or retraining plan and later returned to the same or similarly demanding occupation before being injured again. He stated that the regulation’s current definition of “previously rehabilitated” extends beyond the statute by treating employees as rehabilitated based on actions such as undergoing an eligibility evaluation or waiving reemployment benefits in a settlement, even when no retraining occurred. The motion passed unanimously with Member Corbett absent for the vote.

Lunch break 12:12–1:32 p.m.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

8 AAC 45.170 – Listing of Injuries

Member White moved to approve the repeal of 8 AAC 45.170; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.188 – Third Party Claim

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal of 8 AAC 45.188; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.020 – Transaction of Business

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.020; Member Austin seconded. Chief Wright explained that the regulation was being repealed and readopted to modernize filing requirements and align the regulation with current Division practices. The Board revised subsection (a) to remove reference to transacting business “at its offices,” consolidated and renumbered subsection (c), removed specific electronic file size limits, revised the final sentence in subsection (c)(6) to state that electronic mail identified as potentially harmful to the State of Alaska’s email system will not be considered filed, and corrected paragraph (11) by inserting the missing word “to.” Member Lefebvre amended the motion to incorporate the discussed changes; Member Austin seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.025 – Forms

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.025; Member Austin seconded. Director Collins explained that the amendment was intended to align the regulation with current Division practices. Member Zematis raised concern regarding access for claimants who may lack reliable access to computers or printers. The Board discussed language to clarify that forms may also be obtained by making a request directly to the Division. Member Lefebvre amended the motion to include the updated language; Member Austin seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.030 – Fees

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.030; Member Austin seconded. Director Collins explained that the amendment would remove outdated provisions related to in-office file copying and reflecting current electronic practices, and that transcript costs are paid by the requesting party. During discussion, the Board further consolidated and renumbered the regulation. Member Lefebvre amended the motion to incorporate the discussed revisions; Member Austin seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.032 – Files

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.032, with the removal of the subsection designation “(a)”; Member Beltz seconded. The Board simplified the regulation by removing the subsection designation and replacing “employee or beneficiary, the employer, and the insurer” with “the parties” in the notification provision. Member Lefebvre amended the motion to incorporate the discussed changes; Member Beltz accepted and seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.040 – Parties

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.040; Member Zematis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.050 – Pleadings

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.050; Member Austin seconded. Chief Wright described a substantive procedural change: the revised regulation requires parties to file an answer to a petition, not only an answer to a claim, so the opposing party’s position is known earlier and prehearing conferences and Board review are better supported. The Board discussed the practical effect of requiring petition answers, including that unanswered factual allegations may be deemed admitted, while preserving the Board’s discretion to require proof, and noted that screening orders remain available to address serial or abusive filings. The motion failed by a vote of 9-3. Members Austin, Beltz, Faulkner, Frye, Ladd, Lefebvre, White, Williams, and Zematis voted in favor; Members Cline, Corbett, and Dennis voted against.

Break 3:15–3:29 p.m.

Following the failed vote, the Chair noted that the Board’s earlier approval of amendments to 8 AAC 45.040 created inconsistencies with the existing language of 8 AAC 45.050, prompting further discussion. Member Dennis moved for reconsideration of the failed motion to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.050; Member Frye seconded. Upon reconsideration, the Board approved the motion unanimously.

8 AAC 45.052 and 45.055 – Medical Summary / Cross-examination

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.052 and to approve the adoption of new section 8 AAC 45.055; Member Austin seconded. Chief Wright explained that the proposed rewrite significantly shortens 8 AAC 45.052 by removing cross-examination and related affidavit-of-readiness provisions and consolidating cross-examination procedures into a new section, proposed as 8 AAC 45.055, in response to a recent Alaska Supreme Court decision and stakeholder feedback. Following discussion, Member Lefebvre amended the motion to make three technical edits to clarify that the referenced Smallwood objection/request is on Form 07-6174 (or its equivalent) by removing a comma and inserting “on” in each instance; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with member Beltz absent for the vote.

8 AAC 45.054 – Discovery

Member Zematis moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.054; Member Lefebvre seconded. Chief Wright explained that the revisions update discovery practices to reflect current technology, such as remote depositions, remove outdated and redundant language, and eliminate the separate SIU-specific subsection, clarifying that standard discovery rules apply uniformly to all parties, including the Special Investigations Unit. The Board discussed the impact of removing subsection (e), including timing and enforcement of discovery responses, and confirmed that existing statutory authority and Board discretion adequately address compliance and sanctions. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.060 – Service

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.060; Member Frye seconded. Chief Wright explained that the revisions remove redundant language already addressed in statute, clarify service responsibilities for claims versus petitions, and eliminate prescriptive service methods (such as certified mail) to allow flexibility if statutory service requirements are amended in the future. The Board discussed due-diligence service, including circumstances where a party cannot be located, and confirmed that existing Board discretion and remedies adequately protect due process without requiring service by publication. The motion passed on a vote of ten to one, with members Austin, Cline, Dennis, Faulkner, Frye, Ladd, Lefebvre, White, Williams and Zematis voting in favor, and Member Corbett voting against.

8 AAC 45.065 – Prehearings

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.065; Member Zematis seconded. The amendments revise pre-hearing procedures to clarify the authority of Board designees, establish timelines for amending pre-hearing conference summaries, and require responses to amendment requests. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.070 – Hearings

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.070; Member Austin seconded. Chief Wright summarized substantive revisions to the regulation, including clarifying responsibilities between the Board and its designees, adding a process and timelines for requesting modification or amendment of pre-hearing conference summaries, eliminating redundant or statutorily grounded provisions, streamlining affidavit-of-readiness procedures, and codifying existing practices related to scheduling, attendance, and conduct of hearings. Member Faulkner noted a cross-reference error in subsection (k). Member Lefebvre amended

the motion incorporate the correction; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.072 – Venue

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.072 with a technical amendment to subsection (3) to correct a grammatical error by replacing “may” with “changes,” so the provision reads that the board or its designee changes venue for the board’s convenience or to assure a speedy remedy; Member White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8 AAC 45.120 – Evidence

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.120; Member Cline seconded. Chief Wright explained that this change is to conform with a recent Alaska Supreme Court decision requiring the Board to apply AS 44.62.460(a)–(d) in workers’ compensation proceedings, rather than relying on a standalone evidentiary regulation. The revision removes provisions addressing hearsay and other evidentiary standards already governed by statute, while retaining the remainder of the regulation with minor housekeeping edits. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Collins informed the Board that he was invited to participate in an upcoming Alaska Bar Association Workers’ Compensation Section meeting to discuss ongoing regulatory work and receive stakeholder feedback.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Member Cline moved to adjourn, Member Frye seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 5:06 pm

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Charles Collins called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. in Juneau, Alaska. Participation was available via Zoom video conference.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present, constituting a quorum:

Brad Austin	Randy Beltz	Pamela Cline	Mike Dennis
Sara Faulkner	Bronson Frye	Anthony Ladd	Sarah Lefebvre
Debbie White	Lake Williams	Brian Zematis	

Member John Corbett was excused. Member Zematis arrived at 10:15 a.m. and Member Randall McLellan was absent.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the agenda; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Collins provided a brief legislative update, noting the introduction of two bills affecting workers' compensation: a House bill relating to transportation network company drivers and a Senate bill proposing repeal of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission. He also provided an update on House Bill 245, which would modify the workers' compensation premium tax and authorize the Board to set the rate up to a statutory cap.

Director Collins also reported on recent stakeholder meetings concerning reemployment benefits, regulation rewrites, and employer outreach. He noted that the Division recently held a public meeting regarding the updated *American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* and would issue a bulletin formally adopting the new edition as required by statute.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Misty Steed – PACBLU

- Raised concerns regarding confusion in applying the 2025 fee schedule in conjunction with newly adopted 2026 CMS resource materials.
- Requested that the Division issue a guidance bulletin to ensure consistent application by payers.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Danean Tedford of RefMed provided additional context regarding CMS updates and the dynamic nature of the fee schedule, noting areas where clarification may be helpful.

8 AAC 45.083 – Medical Treatment and Service Fees

Member Lefebvre moved to adopt 8 AAC 45.083, with amendments revising the effective date in subsections (a)(10) and (11) and updating the fee schedule, including the cover and

conforming references throughout, to April 1, 2026; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Lefebvre moved that the Division prepare and issue a bulletin providing clarification regarding the application of the medical fee schedule in light of the delayed adoption and newly adopted CMS resource materials; Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Member Beltz moved to adjourn; Member Lefebvre seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 11:11 am

TAB 3

ALASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Chair, Commissioner Catherine Muñoz
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Name	Seat	District	Affiliation	
Charles Collins	Commissioner's Designee			
Brad Austin	Labor	1 st Judicial District	Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 262	
Debbie White	Industry	1 st Judicial District		
Randy Beltz	Industry	3 rd Judicial District	Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LU 1547	
Pamela Cline	Labor	3 rd Judicial District		
Mike Dennis	Industry	3 rd Judicial District		
Sara Faulkner	Industry	3 rd Judicial District		
Bronson Frye	Labor	3 rd Judicial District		Painters and Allied Trades Local 1959
Anthony Ladd	Labor	3 rd Judicial District		
Randall McLellan	Labor	3 rd Judicial District		
Vacant	Industry	3 rd Judicial District		
Vacant	Industry	3 rd Judicial District		
Vacant	Labor	3 rd Judicial District		
John Corbett	Labor	2 nd /4th Judicial District	Laborers Local 942	
Sarah Lefebvre	Industry	2 nd /4th Judicial District	Colaska	
Lake Williams	Labor	2 nd /4th Judicial District	Operating Engineers Local 302	
Vacant	Industry	2 nd /4th Judicial District		
Brian Zematis	Labor	At Large		
Vacant	Industry	At Large		

TAB 4



BOARD DESIGNEES – May 2026

The following staff members are appointed as Board designees to act on the Board's behalf in accordance with the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act and Regulations. (For example, the Board designee may conduct prehearing conferences, take action in connection with Board-ordered second independent medical examinations, and decide whether to continue or cancel scheduled Board hearings.)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE</u>
Charles Collins	Juneau	Director
Janel Wright	Anchorage	Chief of Adjudications
Kyle Reding	Anchorage	WC Hearing Officer II
William Soule	Anchorage	WC Hearing Officer II
Kyle Ruschell	Anchorage	WC Hearing Officer I
Vacant	Anchorage	WC Hearing Officer I/II
Kathryn Setzer	Juneau	WC Hearing Officer II
Robert Vollmer	Fairbanks	WC Hearing Officer II
Vacant	Fairbanks	WC Hearing Officer I/II
Elizabeth Pleitez	Anchorage	WC Officer II
Harvey Pullen	Anchorage	WC Officer II
Amanda Johnson	Anchorage	WC Officer II
Carrie Craig	Anchorage	WC Officer II
Rochelle Comer	Anchorage	WC Officer I
Vacant	Juneau	WC Officer II
Vacant	Fairbanks	WC Officer I

TAB 5



WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION

MAY 2026 ALASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

...to ensure the quick, efficient, fair, and predictable delivery of indemnity and medical benefits to injured workers at a reasonable cost to the employers...

ALASKA WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD NEWS

The Board is still down several positions. A few applicants have been accepted but we still have openings, especially in District 3, that is the Anchorage, Mat Valley, and the Kenai Peninsula.

Those members whose terms are up should have been contacted by Boards and Commissions.

Name	Panel	Affiliation	Term Date
Brad Austin	Southern	Labor	2028
Debbie White	Southern	Industry	2027
Randy Beltz	Southcentral	Industry	2028
Mike Dennis	Southcentral	Industry	2028
Sara Faulkner	Southcentral	Industry	2028
Vacant	Southcentral	Industry	2028
Vacant	Southcentral	Industry	2026
Bronson Frye	Southcentral	Labor	2027
Pam Cline	Southcentral	Labor	2027
Anthony Ladd	Southcentral	Labor	2026 - Approved
Randall McLellan II	Southcentral	Labor	2026 - Approved
Vacant	Southcentral	Labor	2027
Sarah LeFebvre	Northern	Industry	2028
Vacant	Northern	Industry	2028
Lake Williams	Northern	Labor	2026 - Approved
John Corbett	Northern	Labor	2027
Vacant	At Large	Labor	2027
Brian Zematis	At Large	Industry	2026 - Approved

ALASKA WORKERS COMPENSATION RESOLUTIONS

The Board has active resolutions that have been shared with the Legislature and the Governor's office. A list of those can be found on the Boards web page, [Workers' Compensation Board](#). Resolution 24-01 is the only active Resolution and communicates our desire to use electronic mail for service delivery and reduce the costs to the Division by removing the requirement to send documents by certified mail.

REGULATIONS

The best laid plans sometimes do not work the way they were intended. Normally, after a Board meeting with regulations approved, we move to public comment and law review, then the next Board meeting we could have an adoption vote by the Board. This will not happen for us in May.

Governor's Administrative Order 360 directed all Departments to look for ways to "improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the State's regulatory environment." To ensure all regulations are clearly written, legally sound, and supported by a demonstrated need. Regularly evaluating existing regulations for effectiveness, redundancy, clarity, and impact to reduce the regulatory burden on all Alaskans.

This created a very large body of work that the Department of Law is currently working through. Workers Compensation Board Procedures: Regulation package 2026200077 is still under review at the Department of law and has not been released for public comment.

LEGISLATION

Current bills affecting Workers' Compensation that are before the Legislature:

House Bill 44 – This bill would establish a death benefit for the estate or parents of a worker who leaves no dependents. Although the House Labor and Commerce Committee heard the bill in January 2025, it saw no further action. As a result, the bill is expected to expire at the end of the session.

House Bill 88 – Tuition Waivers for peace officers, firefighters and armed forces members. This bill would allow for tuition to be waived for dependents if an injury occurred in the line of duty. House Education committee, no hearings. This bill will die at the end of session.

House Bill 103 – A change in the language for the firefighter presumption in AS 23.30.121. Changes the exam schedule from annual to biannual. House Labor and Commerce, no hearings yet. This bill will die at the end of session.

House Bill 193 – Paid Parental Leave. Currently in House Finance, with a number of amendments. Why does this matter to Workers' Compensation? As a new program, an agency will need to be established, something akin to the Fisherman's Fund with claims agents, dispute procedures, and

investigation into fraud. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has attached this to Workers' Compensation in the planning stage as it must be separate from Unemployment Insurance and the Workers' Compensation Division has the expertise to operate the proposed agency. Why is this a good idea? It will allow the Director to have access to a funding stream outside of WSCAA, some expenses for operation can be deferred from WSCAA to operate the Paid Parental Leave program. This PPL program is a priority of the House Majority Caucus but will likely be changed in the Senate, the Governor is not supportive and could veto this bill.

House Bill 210 – Occupational Disability payments and medical benefits under public employee retirement system. Passed the House on May 6, and currently sitting in the Senate. This is not a workers' compensation bill but may impact benefits in certain claims due to the offset of benefit coverage. If an increased benefit from another source moves the total benefit above the amount allowed under AS 23.30.180 or .185 an offset to weekly compensation under AS 23.30.224 will take effect.

House Bill 245- Workers' Compensation tax rate and electronic service. This bill was crafted to close the revenue gap by allowing the workers' compensation premium levy to rise and by eliminating the requirement to use certified mail to ship Decision and Orders, and other forms of service notification. As of May 6, no hearings have been held on this bill, although a number of conversations mentioned the issues, the bill is destined to die at the end of session.

House Bills 345 and 355 – relating to agricultural cooperatives and workers' compensation. Both bills included a provision to exclude members of agricultural cooperatives from coverage under worker's compensation. This bill is in response to certain small cooperative entities growing products, such as flowers, that work together to market the products produced and the membership is normally inclusive of the owner/operators of the small agricultural businesses. No hearings have been scheduled, and the bills will both expire at the end of this session.

Senate Bill 35 – Delivery Network Companies, or what I call Uber Eats. This will exempt delivery network couriers from the workers' compensation benefits and identify those couriers as independent contractors. SB 35 has passed the Senate and is in House Labor and Commerce, but several amendments are being proposed. We were successful at removing most of the language that affected workers' compensation and this will now only exempt couriers from workers' compensation and treat them as independent contractors.

Senate Bill 251 – Repeal the Appeals Commission. This bill does exactly what the title states and moves appeals back to the court system. This bill is in Senate Finance and has had several hearings. Some opposition has been logged by parties and the outcome is unknown. The bill saves half a million in WSCAA funds annually and the court system is on record stating there is no impact on the court budget or calendar. There is a possible amendment in committee to change this from moving to the Court System to Office of Administrative Hearings.

CURRENT WORK

The staffing of the Medical Services Review Board is set, and draft work is in progress, the committee members are:

Jeff Gilbert – representing the Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association

Dr. Mason McCloskey – representing Alaska Chiropractic Society

Dr. Mary Ann Foland – a medical provider

Misty Steed – a medical payments expert

Valerie Mittlestead – representing the public

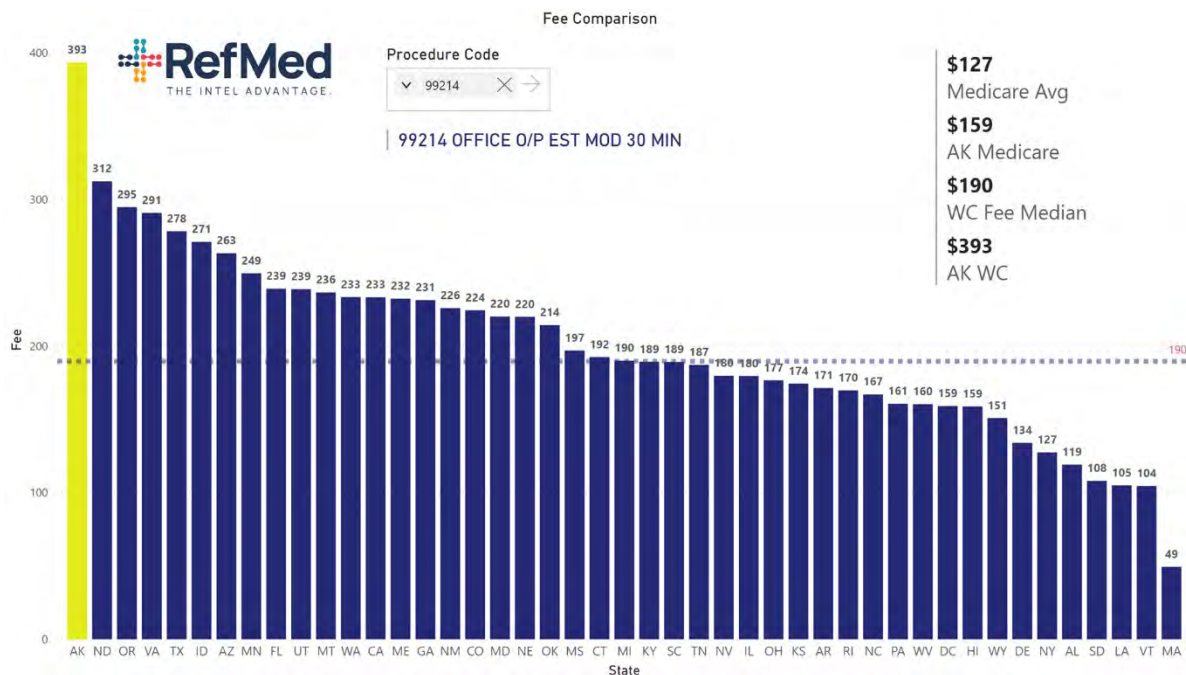
Dr. Alan Swenson – representing the Alaska Medical Association

Kimberly Dean – representing the insurance industry

Seane Popp – a medical benefits provider

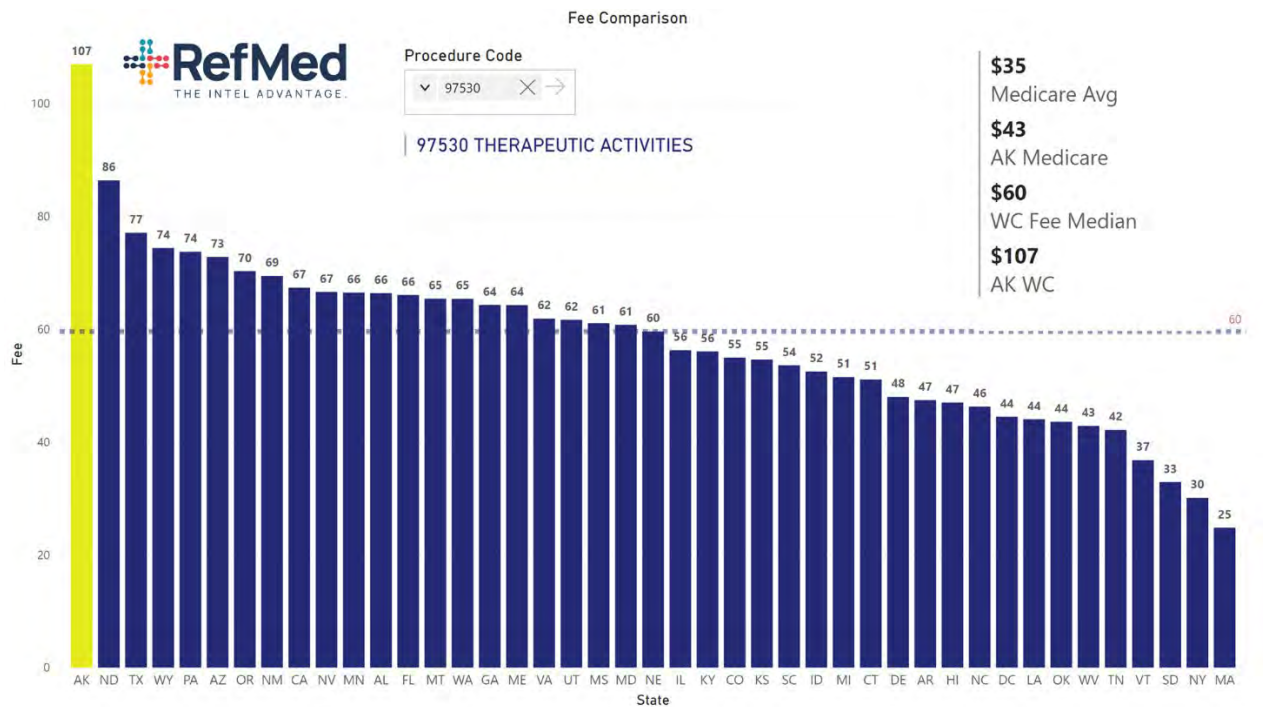
Our subject matter expert contractor is Danean Tedford of RefMed, Danean has brought a practitioner’s view to the MSRC and has offered several ideas on improving the Medical Fee Schedule. Several questions have been generated on application of certain billing formulas such as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updates on procedures for reimbursement.

The MSRC is scheduled to meet for work on the 2027 Fee Schedule on May 28, 2026. This year we will be using a new application to monitor reimbursement rates by code.



The procedure code, 99214, established patient office or outpatient visit, usually involving 30–39 minutes of time or moderate-level medical decision-making (MDM). It is used for evaluating and managing chronic conditions with exacerbation, or new, moderate-complexity problems. As you can tell from the chart, Alaska is higher than most states, as expected. The logical question for the MSRC is it reasonable.

My office has fielded many questions this winter on reimbursement amounts of certain codes. The number one issue was from a small group of physical therapists. The concern has to do with a misunderstanding of how the RBRVS equation works. The CPT code in question is 97530, one-on-one "therapeutic activities" aimed at improving functional performance.



For reference, Alaska Workers’ Compensation Fee schedule reimburses considerably more than most of the nation. Continued communication with all concerned parties is ongoing and I expect more education on the subject will be forthcoming.

The Official Alaska Workers’ Compensation Medical Fee Schedule for 2026 is now in effect.

The American Medical Association new “edition,” the AMA Guides Sixth 2025 was published on December 2, 2025, this is now the working volume in Alaska as of April 1, 2026. (Bulletin 26-01)

The self-insurance program is continuing to work properly, although a number of entities have experienced delays in filing the proper paperwork. The Municipality of Anchorage is currently filed for a hearing as they were unable to produce audited financials for the renewal of a self-insurance certificate. Possibly a regulation change may need to be considered for extensions for renewal.

DIRECTOR THOUGHTS

We began the year with concern that a budget deficiency would impact the Division / Board and workers' compensation operations would be hampered by inefficiency. The Division is operating with a large vacancy factor which has impacted on our ability to meet the demands of the industry. The good news is, we have continued to meet metrics and the FY2027 budget addresses the issue.

Workers' Safety and Compensation Administration Account (WSCAA)				
Revenue-Expenditure Fund Report				
	Current Budget		Projection	
	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
REVENUE				
Insurer Premium Tax	4,804,683	4,800,000	4,848,000	4,896,480
Self-Insurer Service Fee	1,815,404	1,800,000	1,818,000	1,836,180
WC Penalties	332,960	332,960	332,960	332,960
Misc	5,000	10,660	10,660	10,660
General Funds		1,405,000	1,500,000	1,600,000
Revenue Total	6,958,047	8,348,620	8,509,620	8,676,280
EXPENDITURE				
Workers' Comp	6,003,459	7,301,300	7,345,000	7,389,000
WC Appeals Commission	452,873	478,000	481,000	484,000
WC Capital Improvement Project	0	0	0	0
Occupational Safety and Health	328,540	413,900	418,039	421,000
Labor Market Info	77,058	75,000	82,500	83,000
Misc				
Expenditure Total	6,861,929	8,268,200	8,326,539	8,377,000
FUND BALANCE / SHORTFALL	96,118	80,420	183,081	299,280

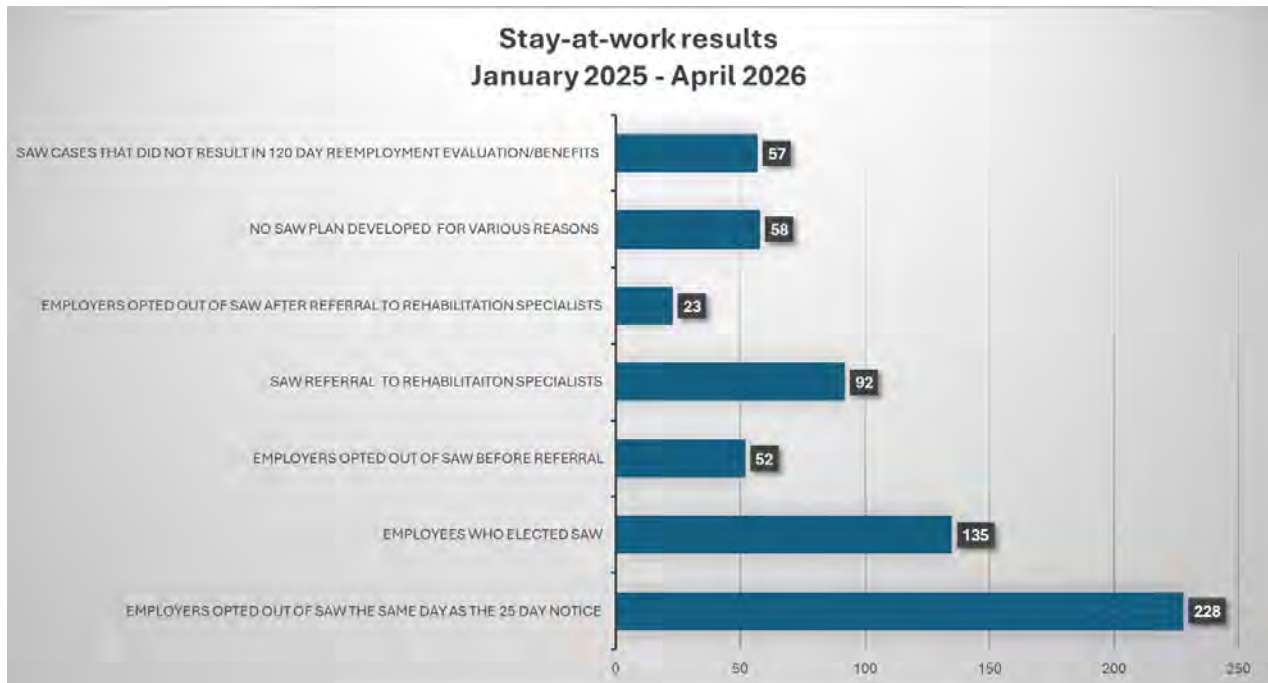
The budget is currently in Legislature, and both Houses have passed a budget but with differences. This requires a conference committee to compile and negotiate a resolution, then both legislative bodies must approve before submitting to the Governor. The Division has a line item for an increment of 1.4 million to back fill a portion of our budget due to WSCAA shortfalls.

Spring of 2026 synopsis	FY26	FY27	FY28
Leg Allocation from WSCAA	\$ 8,032,600.00	\$ 8,731,500.00	
WSCAA Revenue	\$ 6,958,047.00	\$ 6,943,620.00	\$ 7,076,280.00
		Projection	
Empty Authority	\$ 1,074,553.00	\$ 1,787,880.00	
		GF 1,445,500.00	
Workers' Comp	\$ 6,003,458.62	\$ 7,089,584.00	\$ 7,132,121.00
WC Appeals Commission	\$ 452,873.00	\$ 480,868.00	\$ 483,753.00
WC Capital Improvement Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Occupational Safety and Health	\$ 328,539.93	\$ 413,900.00	\$ 418,039.00
Labor Market Info	\$ 77,057.80	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 82,500.00
Expenditure Total	\$ 6,861,929.35	\$ 8,059,352.00	\$ 8,116,413.00
		Projection	
Revenue Shortfall	\$ 96,117.65	\$ (1,115,732.00)	\$ (1,040,133.00)

This will be discussed in person due to the sensitive nature and considerable complexity involved.

STAY-AT-WORK / RETURN-TO-WORK

The Stay-at-Work / Return-to-Work program continues to expand as employers and employees become aware of the program.



Currently three SAW plans have been approved and completed. Another nine SAW plans are in development.

TOTAL COSTS TO WORKERS COMPENSATION IN ALASKA

Alaska continues to work diligently to carefully control costs and partner with providers and payers to improve outcomes for injured workers. The recent table from Oregon’s Department of Consumer and Business Services shows continued progress at keeping Alaska competitive by lowering the costs of delivering benefits to injured workers at a “quick, efficient, fair, and predictable delivery of indemnity and medical benefits to injured workers at a reasonable cost to the employers.”

Table 1. Workers’ compensation premium rate ranking

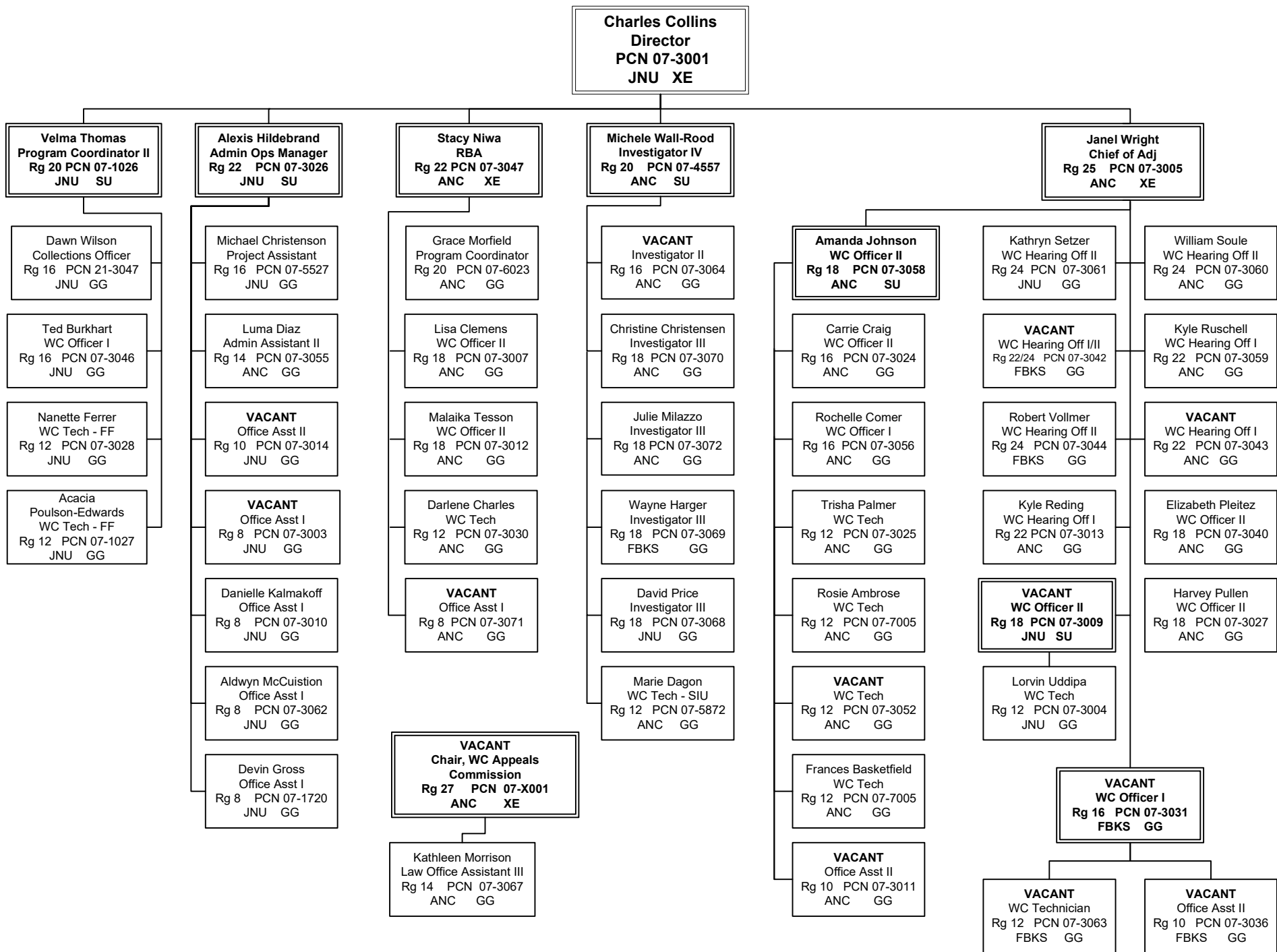
2024 rank	2022 rank	State	Index rate	Percent of study median	Effective date
1	2	Hawaii	2.52	231%	Jan. 1, 2023
2	1	New Jersey	2.16	198%	Jan. 1, 2024
3	4	New York	1.98	182%	Oct. 1, 2023
4	3	California	1.86	170%	Sept. 1, 2023
5	6	Vermont	1.60	147%	April 1, 2023
6	10	Connecticut	1.48	135%	Jan. 1, 2024
7	8	Wisconsin	1.42	130%	Oct. 1, 2023
8	7	Wyoming	1.41	130%	Jan. 1, 2024
9	5	Louisiana	1.41	129%	May 1, 2023
10	11	Rhode Island	1.38	127%	Aug. 1, 2023
11	9	Maine	1.37	125%	April 1, 2023
12	24	Washington	1.35	123%	Jan. 1, 2024
13	19	Illinois	1.34	123%	Jan. 1, 2024
14	15	Montana	1.34	122%	July 1, 2023
15	17	Oklahoma	1.33	122%	Jan. 1, 2023
16	13	Missouri	1.31	120%	Jan. 1, 2024
17	12	Minnesota	1.25	114%	Jan. 1, 2024
18	18	New Hampshire	1.22	112%	Jan. 1, 2023
19	14	Iowa	1.21	110%	Jan. 1, 2024
20	21	Alaska	1.16	106%	Jan. 1, 2024
21	26	Pennsylvania	1.14	105%	April 1, 2023
22	25	South Dakota	1.13	103%	July 1, 2023

Even more impressive is Alaska's ranking by class in several job classifications important in Alaska.

Appendix 6. Workers' compensation premium rate ranking by class

	Class 5213 Concrete Construct		Class 5221 Concrete/Cement		Class 5403 Carpentry NOC		Class 5437 Carpentry Cabinet/Trim		Class 5474 Painting NOC	
1	NY	25.87	NY	15.38	NY	17.93	MN	10.11	NY	13.84
2	NJ	10.13	NJ	7.56	NJ	15.99	NJ	9.71	NJ	13.83
3	CT	9.88	MN	6.44	HI	9.23	WI	8.67	GA	11.37
4	IL	9.08	CA	6.37	WA	8.95	IL	8.47	HI	7.94
5	VT	8.31	CT	5.92	CA	8.41	NY	8.28	OH	7.83
6	HI	7.86	MA	5.90	CT	8.08	GA	7.12	ME	7.83
7	MA	7.66	HI	5.69	MA	7.42	MT	6.96	CA	7.41
8	AK	7.51	PA	5.66	IL	6.66	LA	6.72	CT	7.34
9	MN	7.27	IL	5.50	WI	6.63	HI	6.69	SC	7.06
10	PA	7.24	WI	5.26	ID	6.62	RI	6.61	MN	6.86
11	NH	7.12	WA	5.17	VT	6.41	PA	6.59	MT	6.76
12	ME	6.97	VT	5.13	ME	6.41	SC	6.36	FL	6.68
13	GA	6.77	ME	4.95	NH	6.36	NH	6.35	NH	6.65
14	NE	6.67	GA	4.87	MN	6.33	CT	6.32	RI	6.47
15	OK	6.48	MO	4.62	MT	6.10	ME	6.11	VT	6.23
16	FL	6.44	NE	4.46	IA	5.82	VT	6.00	LA	6.10
17	MT	6.23	NH	4.36	MI	5.65	OK	5.57	WI	6.03
18	IA	6.04	FL	4.25	LA	5.64	CA	5.42	ID	5.99
19	AL	5.82	RI	4.18	PA	5.56	MO	5.37	TX	5.80
20	RI	5.78	AK	4.15	NE	5.51	AK	5.21	MO	5.73
21	MO	5.48	CO	4.14	OK	5.49	MI	5.13	OK	5.63
22	WI	5.42	LA	4.10	SD	5.34	SD	5.01	IL	5.50
23	SD	5.36	MI	4.09	RI	5.09	CO	4.94	WA	5.50
24	MD	5.33	MT	4.09	AK	5.05	MS	4.84	NC	5.44
25	WA	5.23	OK	3.94	MD	4.85	AL	4.79	IA	5.34
26	NC	5.19	MD	3.89	MO	4.58	WA	4.75	PA	5.08
27	CA	5.09	IA	3.84	NM	4.58	ID	4.54	IN	4.96

BTW Class 5474 painting Alaska ranks 31 at 4.72, lower than Oregon.



TAB 6



WORKERS' COMPENSATION 2027 CALENDAR

All Venue

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Holiday
Board Meeting
Juneau
MSRC Meeting
Fairbanks
Hearing Days

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
01/01/27	New Year's Day
01/18/27	MLK Jr.'s Birthday
02/15/27	Presidents' Day
03/29/27	Seward's Day
05/31/27	Memorial Day
06/19/27	Juneteenth Day (observed 06/18/2027)
07/04/27	Independence Day (observed 07/05/2027)

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
09/06/27	Labor Day
10/18/27	Alaska Day
11/11/27	Veterans' Day
11/25/27	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/27	Christmas Day (observed 12/24/2027)
AWCB	Jan 7-8; June 3; Aug 20; Oct 14-15
MSRC	June 4, 25; July 16; Aug 6, 20

Note: Additional hearing/public meeting dates will be added as necessary



WORKERS' COMPENSATION 2027 CALENDAR

ANCHORAGE

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Holiday
 Board Meeting
 MSRC Meeting
 Hearing Day

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
01/01/27	New Year's Day
01/18/27	MLK Jr.'s Birthday
02/15/27	Presidents' Day
03/29/27	Seward's Day
05/31/27	Memorial Day
06/19/27	Juneteenth Day (observed 06/18/2027)
07/04/27	Independence Day (observed 07/05/2027)

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
09/06/27	Labor Day
10/18/27	Alaska Day
11/11/27	Veterans' Day
11/25/27	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/27	Christmas Day (observed 12/24/2027)
AWCB	Jan 7-8; June 3; Aug 20; Oct 14-15
MSRC	June 4, 25; July 16; Aug 6, 20

Note: Additional hearing/public meeting dates will be added as necessary



WORKERS' COMPENSATION 2027 CALENDAR

JUNEAU

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Holiday
 Board Meeting
 MSRC Meeting
 Hearing Day

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
01/01/27	New Year's Day
01/18/27	MLK Jr.'s Birthday
02/15/27	Presidents' Day
03/29/27	Seward's Day
05/31/27	Memorial Day
06/19/27	Juneteenth Day (observed 06/18/2027)
07/04/27	Independence Day (observed 07/05/2027)

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
09/06/27	Labor Day
10/18/27	Alaska Day
11/11/27	Veterans' Day
11/25/27	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/27	Christmas Day (observed 12/24/2027)
AWCB	Jan 7-8; June 3; Aug 20; Oct 14-15
MSRC	June 4, 25; July 16; Aug 6, 20

Note: Additional hearing/public meeting dates will be added as necessary



WORKERS' COMPENSATION 2027 CALENDAR

FAIRBANKS

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

 Holiday
 Board Meeting
 MSRC Meeting
 Hearing Day

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
01/01/27	New Year's Day
01/18/27	MLK Jr.'s Birthday
02/15/27	Presidents' Day
03/29/27	Seward's Day
05/31/27	Memorial Day
06/19/27	Juneteenth Day (observed 06/18/2027)
07/04/27	Independence Day (observed 07/05/2027)

State Holidays

Date	Holiday
09/06/27	Labor Day
10/18/27	Alaska Day
11/11/27	Veterans' Day
11/25/27	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/27	Christmas Day (observed 12/24/2027)
AWCB	Jan 7-8; June 3; Aug 20; Oct 14-15
MSRC	June 4, 25; July 16; Aug 6, 20

Note: Additional hearing/public meeting dates will be added as necessary