

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE
BILL WILLIAMS
Co-Chair
(907) 465-3424
Fax: (907) 465-3793

INTERIM ADDRESS
50 Front Street, Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 247-4627
Fax (907) 225-7157



REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN HARRIS
Co-Chair
(907) 465-4859
Fax: (907) 465-3799

INTERIM ADDRESS
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801 - 1162

State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

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CONTACT: J.D. Wallace, House Majority Press Secretary (907) 465-5369

House Approves Supplemental Budget **Most Funds for Natural Disaster Relief and Budget Shortfalls**

(JUNEAU) – The Alaska State House of Representatives approved House Bill 100 by a vote of 27 to seven today. [HB 100](#) is the supplemental budget for the 2003 fiscal year. More than \$69 million will finance disaster relief, fire suppression, and programs that require more funding to complete FY 03, which ends June 30th.

“Normally you’re dealing with programs such as fire suppression that are hard to project what the costs will be,” Finance co-Chair Rep. John Harris (R-Valdez) said. “It’s hard to put a price tag on something such as fire suppression because you might have a light fire season or a heavy one, and if you have large fires, you spend more money.”

Of the supplemental \$69 million for FY 03:

- \$41.9 million will pay for disaster relief for events such as last year’s earthquake;
- \$19 million will finance fire suppression costs.
- \$500,000 for the accident involving a corrections transport van on the Seward Highway
- \$100,000 for the Red Dog Mine air quality dispute

“We tried to trim down the supplemental as much as possible,” Harris said. “We did keep some one-time funds available in case we need them for school funding and other one-time needs. They’ll roll over into the general fund if they’re not used this year.”

HB 100 moves to the Senate.

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