



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Bert Stedman
Current Version: CSSB 291 (CRA)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 291

Short Title: MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANTS

Summary:

- Establishes a capital improvement program for harbor facilities with a one time 50/50 matching grant program for municipalities.
- Funds major maintenance and capital improvements by using a portion of the watercraft fuel tax and the state's share of the fisheries business tax collected under AS 43.74.015.
- Requires the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to administer the program.
- Prohibits a municipality from using a state grant under a different program or appropriation as its share of the 50/50 match, except for money given to the municipality under the municipal tax resources equalization, safe communities program or the municipality's share of the fisheries business tax.

Benefits:

- Creates safer and more functional harbors for coastal communities.
- Helps stimulate the economy of the entire state by improving harbors, which are the main economic engine of coastal communities.

Background:

- Alaska has more coastline than the entire contiguous United States. Harbors are critically important to Alaska. Over the past decade, the state has transferred ownership of harbors to municipalities. Unfortunately, the harbors were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance. SB 291 helps alleviate the burden on municipalities by creating a 50/50 matching grant program to pay for major maintenance and capital improvements.