

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

News From The House Majority

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State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Actuality line: 1-800-478-6540



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

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House Majority Bids Farewell to Rep. Gary Stevens **Kodiak Legislator Appointed to Senate**

(Juneau) – One of Alaska’s legislators received a new title today. Rep. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak) is now Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak). House Speaker Pete Kott (R-Eagle River) says the House’s loss is the Senate’s gain.

“Representative Stevens has been a definite asset to the House in his tenure with us,” Kott said. “Certainly he has brought a breadth of experience in educational issues as well as fishing issues. From a financial standpoint, he is one of the most well-versed individuals as it relates to state finance.”

Governor Frank Murkowski named Stevens to the Senate seat vacated by Alan Austerman. Austerman is now the governor’s fisheries policy advisor. Stevens joins the Senate after two years in the House. The 33-year Alaskan has political experience that includes time spent as mayor of the city of Kodiak and as mayor of the Kodiak Island Borough. Speaker Kott says he is eager to confirm someone who can continue work in the same spirit held by Stevens. Kott says one of the current representatives will fill Stevens’ House Finance Committee seat.

“It is one of the most sought after seats so I’m sure there will be a lot of competition for that seat,” Kott said. “As far as losing one member for ten days or two weeks, it will have a negligible effect on House operations, especially the House Majority. We’ll go from 28 members down to 27, and 27 really is the break even point for moving and controlling the flow of legislation.”

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