

# Alaska State Legislature

*Interim:*

Legislative Affairs Agency, LIO  
119 N. Cushman St. Suite 213  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: (907) 452-1088  
Fax: (907) 452-1146



*Session:*

State Capitol, Room 411  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3004  
Fax: (907) 465-2070

Representative Jim Whitaker  
District 31

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 26, 2001

CONTACT: Rep. Jim Whitaker, 465-3004

## **House Bill Could Boost Tourism Marketing** **Whitaker's HB 24 Resolves Borough-City Tax Authority Conflict**

(JUNEAU) -- Raising revenue for tourism marketing will be easier for some boroughs and cities under a law sponsored by Rep. Jim Whitaker (R-Fairbanks) that passed the House unanimously today.

"Since the 1970s, the visitor industry in Alaska communities has relied on local destination marketing organizations to compete in an increasingly competitive worldwide marketplace," said Whitaker.

"But if a first-class city exists within the boundaries of a second-class borough, then both cannot exercise area-wide economic development powers - specifically, a tourism marketing effort cannot be undertaken by both, which doesn't make a lot of sense," he said. "If both want to be able to contribute, they should both be able to contribute."

HB 24 makes it possible for both governmental entities in such a situation to contribute a sales tax on hotel rooms, or "bed tax," to tourism marketing efforts, he said.

HB 24 moves next to the Senate for consideration.

###

**Broadcasters note: Comments are available on the Majority Actuality Line 1 (800) 478-6540**