

Sponsor Statement for HB 515

Operating Budget Missions and Measures

"An Act relating to missions and measures to be applied to certain expenditures by the executive branch of state government and the University of Alaska and by the judicial branch of state government from the state operating budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003; and providing for an effective date."

Released: April 4, 2002

House Bill 515 is the process we use to establish the mission of various state agencies. We also establish the measures against which the agencies will be measured. This bill is a result of extensive committee work and reflects the legislature's expectation of the performance of state government.

Basically, this is a format that lets the Legislature and all Alaskans get an answer to the question, "Are we getting the best return on our investment."

HB 515 is a continuing step in a process begun by the Legislative Majorities almost 6 years ago. It is a process that requires continuing review and dedication to monitoring the activities and accomplishments of state agencies.

These missions and measures will help the Legislature determine which agencies are moving toward accomplishing the goals and which are not. This information will be used to guide budget decisions. Activities that are efficient and focused at the correct target will receive favorable consideration. Agencies that are not moving in an appropriate direction or are not improving efficiency will be addressed in the budget process.

This is a key part of any long-range fiscal plan. We must assure Alaskans that the funds state government has are being spent effectively, before we dare ask them for additional funds.

[House Bill 515](#) provides the ability to hold state government accountable for the public funds we are currently investing.