

# Representative Mike Hawker

## Alaska State Legislature



### House Bill 16 Sponsor Statement

#### **Short Title: Extend Senior Benefits Payment Program**

House Bill 16 would extend the Alaska Senior Benefits Program to June 30, 2015.

The Senior Benefits Program provides monthly cash assistance to state residents age 65 years or older whose household income does not exceed 175% of the federal poverty guidelines for Alaska. Specifically, the program pays:

- \$250 per month to individuals with income of 75% or less of FPG
- \$175 per month to individuals with income between 75% and 100% of FPG
- \$125 per month to individuals with income between 100% and 175% of FPG

The program assists approximately 10,000 Alaskan seniors, with a total cost of \$21 million projected for this fiscal year. If it is not extended, the program will sunset on June 30, 2011.

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