

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bob Herron

Official Business



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

House Bill 333 – Museum Construction Grants Version 28-LS1446\U

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 333 establishes a matching grant program, in the Department of Education and Early Development, for eligible museum construction, expansion, and major renovation projects.

This mirrors an existing program for libraries in the state. In its current version, HB 333 would create a mechanism for the State to provide communities the financial assistance needed to help build, expand, or renovate existing facilities to enable them to sustain and enhance the services they provide. Regulation, to be developed by the Department, would further detail the program's workings.

Alaska is home to over 60 museums and cultural centers, found in more than 30 communities across the state – from Barrow to Ketchikan, Unalaska to Eagle. These institutions anchor Alaskan communities of every size. They connect our past to our future through stewardship of local material culture and history, educate Alaskans and visitors of all ages. Many also serve as focus points for community life, providing a place for neighbors to connect, collaborate, and strengthen our sense of ourselves and our environment.

More than half of these known museums anticipate undertaking major capital improvement projects in the next five years. Though HB 333's matching grant program, we can help them continue their vital work in communities across Alaska.

I welcome your support of HB 333.