

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Senator Gary Stevens

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 61 – Museum Construction Grants

Senate Bill 61 establishes a matching grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development for eligible museum construction, expansion, and major renovation projects. Language in the bill is similar to the existing program for libraries.

Under provisions of SB 61

- A person in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum may apply to the department for matching funds under regulations adopted by the department.
- Subject to appropriation, the department would award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.
- Museums are eligible for this program if they are located in Alaska, entitled to receive state grant funds, and provide matching funds from other sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of the project.

Alaska is home to more than 60 museums and cultural centers, located in more than 30 communities of various sizes around the state. These facilities connect our past to our future through stewardship of local material, culture and history, while educating Alaskans and visitors of all ages. Many also serve as focal points for community life, providing a place for neighbors to connect, collaborate, and strengthen their sense of self and environment.

More than half of these museums anticipate undertaking major capital improvement projects in the next five years. Passage of Senate Bill 61 and any accompanying appropriations will help them continue their important work.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.