



# 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

## House Transportation Committee

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## Sponsor Statement

### HB 117 "ART PUBLIC FACILITIES: EXEMPT ST. FERRIES"

AS 35.27.020 mandates that at least 1% of the construction cost of public buildings and facilities be reserved for the design, construction, mounting and administration of works of art. This requirement includes new Alaska Marine Highway System vessels.

The intent of this legislation is to eliminate the statutory 1% of construction cost set aside for artwork on the two new Alaska Class Ferries (ACF) vessels and the Tustumena replacement vessel project.

The two ACF vessels are being funded exclusively with state funding. The total construction contract cost for these vessels is \$101,513,651.00, meaning that a \$1,015,136.51 set aside for artwork is required.

The artwork from the Motor Vessel Taku has been removed and placed into climate controlled storage in Ketchikan prior to the Taku being placed into unmanned layup status. That art is available for reuse on the ACF vessels.

The future Tustumena replacement vessel project, a federal aid project, is estimated to cost \$237M to complete. Like construction of the two new ACFs, this project is subject to AS 35.27.020 and would call for \$2.37M of artwork on the vessel.

The legislation avoids spending nearly \$3.5M of construction budget funding on art, which could otherwise go toward necessary vessel outfitting of marine equipment on the two new ACF vessels and the Tustumena replacement vessel.

The statute exists to mandate a 1% set aside for art. Failing to alter that requirement through this legislation means compliance with the art requirement will come at the same time the vessels are not completely outfitted with essential equipment necessary to safely operate the vessel in passenger service.