

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Senator David Wilson

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### Sponsor Statement

#### Senate Bill 97

*"An Act repealing statutes that relate to art works in public buildings and facilities and that require a set percentage of construction costs to be spent on art."*

As we work towards a fiscally responsible budget, every expenditure is being carefully analyzed. During these challenging fiscal times, we must reduce funding for non-essential services and focus on our core priorities, such as public safety, education, and ensuring that the Permanent Fund Dividend is protected for generations to come.

In 1975, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill requiring the expenditure of one percent of the capital construction costs of public buildings for the acquisition and permanent installation of artwork. Senate Bill 97 would repeal the "Percent for Art in Public Places" statute. At a time when all departments are facing reductions, we simply cannot continue to subsidize art with our limited resources.

Ralph Waldo Emerson declared that "Beauty will not come at the call of the legislature.... It will come, as always, unannounced, and spring up between the feet of brave and earnest men." Alaskans highly value the beauty that creative minds produce to inspire us all. I have no doubt that the art of our great state will continue to flourish with support from individuals and private-sector charitable giving.

I urge your support of Senate Bill 97.