

# ALASKA STATE SENATE

*Session:*  
State Capitol Building,  
Room 418  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-4527



*Interim:*  
P.O. Box 658  
Tok, AK 99780  
Tok: (907) 883-4527  
Fairbanks: (907) 465-4527

## Senator Mike Cronk

### Sponsor Statement for SB 162

#### **“An Act relating to specie as legal tender in the state; and relating to borough and city sales and use taxes on specie.”**

SB 162 strengthens Alaska’s economic resilience and affirms our state’s commitment to individual liberty and fiscal innovation. This bill recognizes gold and silver specie—defined as coins or stamped bullion valued for their metal content—as legal tender in Alaska, while ensuring that transactions involving specie remain free from municipal sales and use taxes.

Alaska’s unique position as a resource-rich state with a history of independence calls for forward-thinking policies that diversify our economic tools. By designating specie as legal tender, SB 162 aligns with the U.S. Constitution (Art. I, Sec. 10, Cl. 1) and expands the mediums of exchange available to Alaskans. The bill includes specie issued by the federal government, certain foreign governments recognized by the U.S. and not deemed adversaries, and potentially the state itself, if judicially approved. Importantly, it respects private choice by not mandating acceptance of specie by private or government entities, preserving freedom in transactions.

To encourage the use of specie, SB 162 prohibits boroughs and cities—both home rule and general law municipalities—from imposing sales or use taxes on its sale or exchange. This tax exemption eliminates a financial barrier, making specie a more viable option for Alaskans seeking alternatives to traditional currency in an era of economic uncertainty.

Additionally, the bill directs the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee to explore further forms of legal tender and examine consumer protections around the exchange of specie, ensuring Alaska remains proactive in adapting to evolving financial landscapes. If practical, the committee will propose legislation to expand these options, fostering long-term economic flexibility.

SB 162 is a practical step toward empowering Alaskans with greater control over their financial choices, protecting against inflation, and reinforcing our state’s sovereignty within the bounds of federal law. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which positions Alaska as a leader in innovative monetary policy while safeguarding the interests of our citizens.

Staff Contact: Paul Menke (907) 465-4527