



# REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HAWKER

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE • DISTRICT 28

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## House Bill 222 Sponsor Statement Version: CS HB 222 (FIN)

### **Short Title: Increase of Appropriation Item**

House Bill 222 closes a loophole in the process for accepting additional funds for items in the budget when the legislature is not in session, protecting Alaska's constitutional balance of powers.

The bill codifies a process for the legislature to put sidebars on the Revised Program Legislative (RPL) process by including language in the budget to prohibit a specified appropriation from being increased without full legislative approval.

This bill essentially gives substance to legislative intent language placed in a budget bill to restrict the Governor from accepting and spending certain additional receipts.

Currently, the Governor is allowed to accept and spend any and all additional federal or other program receipts without restriction or limitation; simply by complying with specified procedures for notifying the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee through the Revised Program Legislative (RPL) process. If the Committee votes affirmatively to approve the RPL, the Governor may immediately receive and spend those additional monies. If the committee does not act on the notification or recommends against the proposed expenditure, the Governor may still receive and expend those monies when 45 days have elapsed.

Additionally, the proposed legislation extends the waiting period to 90 days (from 45) from the date the notification is received and clarifies that the only time the waiting period is shortened is if the RPL is approved by a vote of the Legislative Budget and Audit committee.

PUBLISHED: 3/25/16

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