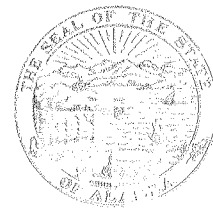


Representative Bob Herron

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House District 38
Kuskokwim, Yukon & Johnson Rivers
Kuskokwim Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak
Akiak
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Cheforak
Chuathbaluk
Crooked Creek
Eek
Goodnews Bay
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lower Kalskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mertarvik
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunapitchuk
Oscarville
Platinum
Quinhagak
Russian Mission
Toksook Bay
Tuluksak
Tununak
Tuntutuliak
Upper Kalskag

House Bill 52 - Museum Construction Grants

Version 29-LS0119\A

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 52 establishes a matching grant program, in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, for eligible museum construction, expansion, and major renovation projects.

This mirrors an existing program for libraries in the state. Under the provisions of House Bill 52, a person in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum could apply to the department for matching funds under regulations adopted by the department.

The department, subject to appropriation, 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, eligible 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, found in more than 30 communities across the state, from Barrow to Ketchikan, Unalaska to Eagle. They anchor Alaska communities of every size. They connect our past to our future through stewardship of local material culture and history, and educate 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 known museums anticipate undertaking major capital improvement projects in the next five years. Through the enabling legislation of House Bill 52 and any accompanying legislative appropriations, we can help them continue their vital work in Alaska.

I welcome your support of House Bill 52.