

# ALASKA LEGISLATURE

*Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins*

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## **Sponsor Statement | HJR 15**

Alaska is the only state or territory in the United States that requires three-fourths of the legislature's membership vote to override appropriation bill vetoes. HJR 15 lowers the threshold to two-thirds of the membership of the legislature, putting it in line with the majority of other states and with the existing threshold for non-appropriation-related legislation in Alaska.

The Alaska Constitution gives the governor vast power. They appoint the entire cabinet (as opposed to other states that elect their constitutional officers), appoint boards and commissions, receive plurality control over the redistricting process, and wield extraordinary veto power.

It is essential that the constitutionally granted separation of powers between legislative and executive branches be beneficially rebalanced. HJR 15 seeks to do so by creating a uniform two-thirds veto override threshold, including for budget vetoes.