



# REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON

## House Majority Leader

Serving House District 2 • Fairbanks and North Pole

### Sponsor Statement

#### HB 209

*“An Act relating to public finance; creating the Department of Management and Budget; transferring the duties of the office of management and budget to the Department of Management and Budget; and providing for an effective date.”*

In Article III, Section 25, Alaska’s Constitution states that “The head of each principal department...shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature...” This provision provides the assurance that our state government is properly vetting appointees and employing appropriate checks and balances to ensure that individuals who hold some of the most powerful positions in the state are qualified and able to act in the best interest of all Alaskans.

Across the country, there are 11 states that require legislative confirmation for the state’s chief budget official. These officials are responsible not only for the development of state budgets, but also for overseeing and coordinating the Administration’s procurement, financial management, information, and regulatory policies.

Recognizing the importance of the state’s chief budget official and the influence they have on state policy, HB 209 seeks to transfer Alaska’s Office of Budget and Management to a freestanding budget agency. As an agency within the executive branch, the commissioner of the Department of Management and Budget will be subject to legislative confirmation and their salary determined by the State Officer Compensation Commission.

By creating the Department of Management and Budget, HB 209 will provide critical checks and balances to ensure the individual responsible for crafting Alaska’s annual budget possesses the knowledge and perspective that reflects the values of our state and its resources.

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