



Representative Chris Tuck

Alaska House Majority Coalition Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

Sponsor Statement House Bill 177 Revised Program: Appropriations

House Bill 177 seeks to uphold the Legislature's Constitutional power of appropriation by limiting the authority granted to the governor in statute to amend the budget by receiving and expending additional money that becomes available after the budget has been passed by the Legislature.

Through AS 37.07.080(h), the governor may expend additional receipts 45 days after submitting a revised program to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee for review. This is known as an "RPL," short for "revised program – legislative." Because the federal budget cycle and the state budget cycle are different, this mechanism allows the flexibility to receive additional federal funds.

House Bill 177 adds language to clarify that this process is intended to be used only for additional money received for programs that are already being funded through the budget passed by the Legislature. House Bill 177 also revises the process by stair-stepping the length of time the committee has to review larger RPLs. The larger the RPL, the longer the committee has to review it. This also allows the Legislature an appropriate amount of time to coordinate a special session if necessary.

The legislative power to appropriate funds of the state is an essential component of the checks and balances that make up the foundation of American Democracy and House Bill 177 will ensure that power is protected while still providing the flexibility needed to accept unforeseen funds.

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