

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the removal of the Alaska Marine Highway System fund (AMHS fund) and the Vessel Replacement fund from the general fund, authorizing that money appropriated to the AMHS fund or the Vessel Replacement fund may be spent by the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) without further appropriation, and defining purposes for which funds may be expended from the AMHS fund.

This bill provides a framework for funding sources for legislative appropriation into the AMHS fund and provides stability to the AMHS fund and the Vessel Replacement fund by establishing both funds outside the general fund.

This bill permits the DOT&PF Commissioner to use the AMHS fund to pay costs incurred through the operation of the Alaska Marine Highway System, excluding capital improvements, and otherwise fund and support the operation of Alaska Marine Highway System without the need of additional legislative appropriations. Additionally, the bill permits the DOT&PF Commissioner to use the Vessel Replacement fund for refurbishment of existing state ferry vessels, acquisition of additional state ferry vessels, and replacement of retired or outmoded state ferry vessels without further legislative appropriation.

Passage of this bill will ensure a stable accounting and operating budget for the Alaska Marine Highway System.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure

House Bill No. 395