

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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### **Finance Committee passes SB 124 with \$441 thousand for workforce development in Ketchikan**

(JUNEAU) – The Senate Finance Committee today passed SB 124, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board Allocation Act. The bill increased funding for workplace training by \$3.5 million over 2007 levels, and allocated the funding to organizations that perform workplace training throughout the state. The bill includes 5%, or \$441 thousand, for the Ketchikan Job Center, the first time funding from this program has been allocated to Ketchikan.

Ketchikan’s expanding industrial base requires a steady supply of skilled workers – both craftsmen and supervisors. However, Ketchikan has no dedicated vocational school. The Ketchikan Job Center, run by the Department of Labor, will partner with local businesses to develop and implement practical curricula focused on training people for local industry jobs.

“Just because Ketchikan doesn’t have a dedicated vocational school, doesn’t mean we don’t have a need for such programs. The opportunities this new grant will make possible for workplace development and education will ensure that Ketchikan participates fully in Alaska’s fast changing economy,” said Stedman.

Other institutions newly funded in SB 124:

Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center: 3%

Alaska Works Partnership: 15.5%

Delta Career Advancement Center: 3.3%

The bill now must pass the Senate and House in order to become law.

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