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## **Senate Capital Budget Procures Funds for Ferry Service, Repairs, and Vessel Replacement**

By Senator Bert Stedman

The Senate Finance Committee's capital budget approved numerous items related to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The changes made by the Senate Finance Committee preserves the ability to keep our ferries operating and repaired as well as the ability to replace vessels.

Specifically, the Senate Finance Committee's capital budget makes these changes from the Governor's proposed budget:

- Reverses use of \$47.3 million in AMHS vessel replacement funds for matching federal funds for non-AMHS purposes (ie: road construction, maintenance, and other uses).
- Reverses use of \$15.1 million in AMHS system funds for payments to the federal government if ferries and terminals were sold off.
- Reverses use of \$14.5 million in AMHS operating system funds for other state services and non-AMHS purposes.
- Adds \$17.9 million in new state funds to the AMHS budget for annual overhauls and repairs to the ferries.

Between both the capital and supplemental operating budgets, the Senate Finance Committee provides for \$77 million in AMHS funds for future use by the ferry system and added \$17.9 million in state funds for a total benefit to the Alaska Marine Highway System of \$94.9 million.

For more information, contact [Senator Stedman's](#) office at (907) 465-3873.

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