

Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement House Bill 116 Fiscal Sanity in Alaska Act

Between 2004 and 2013, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Department of Education and Early Development and the Alaska Court System spent a combined total of \$9,129,581 on art program expenditures. House Bill 116 removes the mandate to set aside 1% of funding for art in public places.

The bill eliminates mandatory state subsidies for artwork on projects like the ferries the state would like to build. This is something that everyone should recognize as a common sense first step in Alaska's current fiscal environment. We will save millions of dollars today, and in the future, by using art that the state already owns rather than mandate the purchase of new art.

This bill does not set a limit on how much a designer can spend on art. It simply opens artwork up to the same critical evaluation that all other aspects of a state construction project already receive. Please join with me in returning common sense to state spending in Alaska.