

# News & Announcements

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## Governor Signs SB 291

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 14, 2006 No. 06-113

Governor Signs SB 291 – Establishing Harbor Facilities Grants Program (Juneau) — Governor Frank H. Murkowski today signed into law SB 291, a bill that creates a 50/50 matching grant program to help coastal communities upgrade and maintain their small boat harbors. The bill was introduced by Sitka Senator Bert Stedman, while a companion bill was introduced in the House by Haines Representative Bill Thomas.

“This bill will help create safer and more functional harbors for Alaska’s coastal communities by providing a funding mechanism for maintenance and capital improvement projects,” Murkowski said. “This program will help stimulate the economy of the entire state by improving harbors, which are one of the main economic engines of coastal communities.”

Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the entire contiguous United States, so functional harbors are critically important to smaller communities. Over the past decade, the state has transferred ownership of harbors to municipalities, with funding to cover state engineers’ estimates of deferred maintenance.

SB 291 helps alleviate the burden on municipalities by creating a 50/50 matching grant program to pay for major maintenance and capital improvements. While SB 291 establishes the matching grant program, it does not appropriate funding for it. The program will be administered through the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and is intended to be funded through the use of boat fuel taxes and the state’s portion of the raw fish tax. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2006.

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[John Manly](#) Press Secretary, 465-3500



**In other news:** Boys & Girls Club children watch Governor Murkowski sign marijuana-meth bill into law (Credit: Katrina Wright, Boys & Girls Clubs of Alaska). [Full story >](#)

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