



25th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

SENATOR GENE THERRIAULT, MINORITY LEADER
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 427, 465-4797 (FAX 465-3884)

SENATOR CON BUNDE
SENATOR FRED DYSON
SENATOR TOM WAGONER
SENATOR GARY WILKEN

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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 37

Contact: Sheila Peterson, 465-3709

Bill Version: SB 37

Sponsor: Senator Gary Wilken

Short Title: APPROP: BIOSCIENCE FACILITY UAF

Summary:

- Appropriates \$105 million from the general fund to the University of Alaska to design, construct, and equip a bioscience facility on the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) campus.

Benefits:

- Provides funding to construct a 110,000 square-foot building to house research laboratories for 18 university programs, as well as classroom space and teaching labs.
- Consolidates current research and teaching facilities located on opposite ends of campus into one building equipped for research and teaching of modern cellular and molecular biology.
- Provides modern labs and enhances opportunities for students to participate in research alongside UAF's top researchers.
- Helps attract and retain students.

Background:

- A majority of the biology teaching and research labs at UAF were built prior to the 1960s. These labs are not equipped for research and teaching of modern cellular and molecular biology. The research and teaching functions of these disciplines are currently housed in separate buildings built prior to 1960.

University of Alaska Fairbanks conducts nearly 90 percent of research for the entire university system. Grants for research in biology and arctic science have totaled nearly \$50 million since FY02. Additional space for teaching and research labs is necessary to grow the research enterprise in the life sciences.