

Stevens Touts Session Successes

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

The Alaska

Legislature wrapped up its business on Sunday, ending the session in the required 90-days, and it doesn't appear there will be a string of special sessions, as there were all last summer. Kodiak's Gary Stevens also wrapped up his first session as the Senate President. He said it was a challenging 90 days dealing with the federal stimulus money and the governor.

-- (Stevens 1 50 sec "It was a little strained ... show us those strings.")

The governor's high-profile rejection of much of the federal stimulus money has been described in statewide and national media as posturing, trying to keep her hopes for a higher office alive, but Stevens wouldn't go there:

-- (Stevens 2 42 sec "Oh, I wouldn't go that far ... next few weeks, here.")

Stevens

said he expect the governor to make some vetoes of stimulus funds that the legislature accepted, but does not expect the house and senate to call themselves back into session for an override vote. That's because even if an override was successful, the administration still has the power to not use the stimulus funds.

Other funds

that might be ripe for a veto is money from the cruise ship head tax. Stevens says there quite a bit of money coming to Kodiak from that fund for improvements between the Pier Two ferry terminal and downtown.

-- (Stevens 3 34 sec "The budget looks pretty ... how that turns out.")

Stevens

said there's plenty of money in the capital budget for some much-needed Kodiak road projects:

-- (Stevens 4 32 sec "There's a lot of funds ... get it done this year.")

Stevens

said the legislature again forward-funded education, allowing school districts

to better plan next year's budgets.

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