

Veto override means non-profits can get grants

The veto of a law which would allow the legislature to make specific grants to specific organizations was overridden by the Alaska Legislature last week.

With the override of the veto of Senate Bill 559, the Legislature again will be able to designate the recipients of state grants for programs which were voted on by the Legislature.

Gov. Jay Hammond vetoed the passage of that bill last spring, saying the executive branch of government had the right to designate which agency will be awarded program grants.

Under the bill, the Legislature could name the agency, non-profit corporation, or municipality which they wanted to receive funds to administer grants.

Many non-profit regional corporations such as Tanana Chiefs Conference, Tlingit-Hai-

da Central Council and Mani-liq Corp. in Kotzebue are eligible to receive grants to administer programs and have been designated grant recipients in the past.

However, according to State Rep. Al Adams of Kotzebue, Hammond on occasion did "line item" vetoes of the names of grant recipients after the Legislature had designated them.

Hammond's ability to alter the language of the budget was curtailed several weeks ago when the state Supreme Court ruled that he could not alter the wording of the Legislature's budget.

Hammond had used his veto powers on occasion to change the wording of bills to completely reverse the intent of the laws, a practice which made his powers among the most extensive of any governor in the country.