

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BOARD OF PHARMACY

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD APRIL 03, 2025

Date: April 03, 2025

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Location: Online via Zoom™

Attending: Board Members: Ashley Schaber, Carla Hebert, Sylvain Nouvion, Dylan Sanders, and Sara Rasmussen

Staff: Michael Bowles, Lisa Sherrell, and Sara Chambers

Absent: Ramsey Bell

Agenda Item #1. Roll Call/Call to Order – Board and Staff Introductions

On the record at 4:04pm.

Roll Call:

Ashley Schaber - Present
Sara Rasmussen - Present
Carla Hebert - Present
Ramsey Bell – Absent
Sylvain Nouvion – Present
Dylan Sanders – Present

Quorum was met.

Agenda Item #2 Ethics Disclosures

Brief Discussion: Ashley Schaber disclosed she is a member of the Alaska Pharmacy Association (AKPhA) and the AKPhA Legislative Committee.

Agenda Item #3 Legislation Discussion

- Senate Bill (SB) 147A - An Act relating to the prescription and administration of drugs and devices by pharmacists; relating to reciprocity for pharmacists; and providing for an effective date.
 - SB 147A draft discussed by the board.
 - Ashley Schaber asked the members of the board if they reviewed SB147A and all board members responded “yes”.
 - Sara Rasmussen asked if this bill was pulling pieces of the Governor’s universal licensing bill in.

- Ashley Schaber responded that this bill is the legislation pursuing allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their education, training, and experience and has changes to the patient care services section of the board of pharmacy statutes (AS 08.80.337). Department of Law did recommend changes to the reciprocity section (AS 08.80.145) regarding continuing education in opioid use, addiction, and pain management so that is where the reciprocity section comes in. The board is also pursuing changes to the reciprocity statute to eliminate the need to have an Alaska specific exam on Alaska specific laws, to eliminate a waiting period, and the requirement to have a year of experience before licensure by reciprocity can be obtained but that is planned to be in a separate piece of legislation.
- Sara Rasmussen asked if the continuing education piece is included in this legislation. Ashley Schaber responded the continuing education section adds the requirements for two hours of education in pain management and it essentially adds this into licensure either by examination or by reciprocity.
- Sara Rasmussen asked if it was possible to speak with the bill sponsor as she thought the board had tried to make a change in regulation, but could not, to remove the requirement in the statutes for testing.
- Ashley Schaber responded that is the other change and she has spoken with the bill sponsor on this, and the preference is to keep that separate. So, the plan for that is for it to be introduced as a bill through the Senate Health and Social Services Committee as a separate bill.
- Michael Bowles discussed a concern brought forward with the way that this bill is written that this would allow pharmacists to also prescribe and dispense abortion related medications. The thought is that the board may want to consider language that addresses that either in continuing education or an amendment that supports previous statements from the Governor and the Attorney General as far as Mifepristone.
- Sara Rasmussen stated adding legislation addressing abortion medications could derail the bill.
- Sylvain Nouvion stated he agreed with Sara Rasmussen and that should be kept separate.
- Carla Hebert stated she also agreed with Sara Rasmussen.
- Ashley Schaber presented to the board a draft letter of support she wrote for SB 147A. The paragraph under those bullet points gives a little historical perspective on the process. Alaska has several legislators who have been in the legislature for several years and they might remember the original bill that added patient care services, so that second paragraph is adding a little bit of context.
- Sara Rasmussen recommended adding a statement that the board supports the bill in its current form which gives the board the ability to maneuver if for some reason the legislation changes material, and the board is in a position that we can't support the bill anymore.
- Carla Hebert agreed with Sara Rasmussen.
- Sylvain Nouvion agreed with Sara Rasmussen.
- Dylan Sanders agreed with Sara Rasmussen.
- A motion was made to approve letter of support.

Motion: Sara Rasmussen motioned to approve the letter of support of SB 147A in its current form, as written.
Seconded by Carla Hebert.

Recorded Votes:

Ashley Schaber - Yes
 Sara Rasmussen - Yes
 Carla Hebert - Yes
 Ramsey Bell –
 Sylvain Nouvion – Yes
 Dylan Sanders - Yes

It was resolved to approve the letter of support of SB 147A in its current form, as written.

- SB 142A – An Act relating to municipal and state group health insurance plans and policies, including self-insured plans and policies, and the administration and management of pharmacy benefits; and providing for an effective date.
 - Ashley Schaber discussed SB 142A, House Bill (HB) 226A draft from 33rd legislation, HB 226Z final version from 33rd legislature, the letter of support from the board for HB 226 from 33rd legislature, and the history behind carrying over language not included in the final version of HB 226Z from last legislative session. This bill is a continuation of an effort that the Board supported and provided testimony on last year regarding the practices of pharmacy benefit managers, and the impact that those were having on access to care in Alaska. HB 226 only applied to private insurance plans, and only about 15% of Alaskans so SB 142A looks to broaden that impact and add the state and municipal plan with the same provisions that passed last year under HB 226. These sections were in the original bill that the board supported last year.
 - Ashley Schaber presented to the board a draft letter of support she wrote for SB 142A.
 - Sara Rasmussen stated she was comfortable supporting the bill but that the board do the same thing that they did with SB 147A and make sure that the letter of support states that the board is supporting SB 142A as written to be clear about the version of the bill that the board is supporting.
 - A motion was made.

Motion: Sara Rasmussen motioned and asked for unanimous support to approve the letter of support of SB 142A in its current form, as written.

Recorded Votes:
 Unanimous

It was resolved through unanimous support to approve the letter of support of SB 142A in its current form, as written.

Agenda Item #4 Statute Discussion

- Update on Statute Changes Previously Voted to Pursue
 - Ashley Schaber discussed other statute changes the board has voted to pursue that have not made it to bills yet. The Board is pursuing changes to AS 08.80.30 to add a section regarding prohibiting, limiting, or providing conditions related to essentially drugs that are not approved for self-administration and the other concepts are related to reciprocity by removing AS 08.80.145 sections 4 and 6.

- Sara Rasmussen asked if the board had completed pursuing allowing pharmacy technicians to become licensed at the age of 16.
- Ashley Schaber responded the board had completed that change in regulation.
- Ashley Schaber discussed future concepts of license portability and that the nursing board is pursuing the Nurse Licensure Compact as well as other boards pursuing compacts.

Agenda Item #5 Chair Final Comments

Discussion:

- Next Quarterly Meeting – May 22, 2025
- Ashley Schaber stated the board will likely need another special meeting scheduled to address and discuss future pharmacy related bills.

Agenda Item #6 Adjourn

Sara Rasmussen moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sylvain Nouvion.

Recorded Votes:

Ashley Schaber - Yes

Sara Rasmussen - Yes

Carla Hebert - Yes

Ramsey Bell –

Sylvain Nouvion – Yes

Dylan Sanders - Yes

It was resolved to adjourn at 4:27pm.