

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Medical Board

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

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Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)*

Date of Final Board Approval: 5/16/2025

Brent Taylor, MD
Board Chair

David Barnes, DO

Matt Heilala, DPM

David Paulson, MD

David Wilson, Public Member

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Accomplishments

The Alaska State Medical Board (ASMB) is responsible for protecting the public through the licensing, regulation, and discipline of allopathic and osteopathic physicians, podiatrists, and physician assistants. The Board establishes and evaluates licensing standards for applicants to practice medicine in Alaska.

During FY2025 the Board finalized and implemented multiple regulation changes aimed at efficiencies and streamlining the licensure process for physicians. These changes have significantly reduced the overall processing and wait times for applicants to obtain full licensure. The Board also engaged in a second round of work groups aimed at soliciting stakeholder input to revise and modernize the regulations that govern the practice of physician assistants in Alaska. Based on this feedback a new set of draft regulations were approved by the board in October 2024. These proposed changes are still being worked through the regulatory change process, and are now halted by the Governor's May 9, 2025 Executive Order.

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Activities

Board Investigators received and opened 106 new investigative cases and closed 211 cases on behalf of the Medical Board during this fiscal year. Out of those 211 cases, 144 cases were referred to board members to review and make recommendations.

Licensed board members are tasked with reviewing all case documents (medical records, interviews, documents, etc.) and making recommendations to resolve the matter, which may include either no further action or imposing a sanction on the licensee. In cases that involve standard of care violations, two licensed board members must review the case to ensure a thorough review is completed. Standard of Care violations, comprising 20% of the cases brought to the board, were the most common types of violations; while violations of reporting requirements and failing to meet continuing education requirements were the next most common types of violations.

The Board reviewed 35 malpractice cases reported by licensees, screening for gross negligence and avoidable patient harm. Following their case review, licensees were notified regarding recommended follow up actions.

During FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 through May 12, 2025), the board issued 891 licenses, including:

- 641 allopathic physicians
- 111 osteopathic physicians
- 4 podiatrists
- 51 residents
- 1 locum tenens
- 83 physician assistants

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Needs

The State Medical Board currently has three vacancies (physician, physician assistant and public member).