

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #1



Roll Call/Call to Order

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #2



## Ethics Disclosures

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #3



### Board Activities

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #4



Consent Agenda Items



# ALASKA BOARD OF NURSING MEETING AGENDA

**MAY 6, 7, & 8, 2026**

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Alaska Board of Nursing is to actively promote and protect the health of the citizens of Alaska through governance of the practice of nursing.

## Meeting Details

Meeting Name: Alaska Board of Nursing Meeting

Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM (AKST)

Meeting Start Date: May 6, 2026

Meeting End Time: 1:00 PM (AKST)

Meeting End Date: May 8, 2026

Meeting Locations: 1. Board/Staff only - Suite 1540, Atwood Building, Anchorage, AK  
2. Zoom for Public Attendees

## **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81715770284>

Board of Nursing: [Nursing.Alaska.gov](https://www.nursing.alaska.gov)

### **Board Members:**

Danette Schloeder,  
RN  
(Chairperson)

Heather Crivello,  
RN

Marianne Murray  
RN Educator

April Erickson,  
APRN

Vacant  
LPN Seat

Michael Collins,  
Public Member

CJ Payne,  
Public Member

### **Staff:**

Patty Wolf, MSN,  
RNC-OB  
Executive  
Administrator

Lisa Maroney,  
Licensing  
Examiner III,  
Supervisor

Kelly Olson, RN  
Nurse Consultant I

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**August 5 & 6, 2026**  
Needs to be confirmed

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

**Agenda**

\*Times listed are approximate

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call (9:00 - 9:03)
2. Ethics Disclosures (9:03 – 9:07)
3. Board Activities (9:07 – 9:15)
4. Consent Agenda Items (9:15 – 9:20)
  - Meeting Agenda
  - NCSBN Letter from the President
5. AO 360 – Project one (all day)
  - Regulation plan status and project one /Discussions  
Presenter: Patty Wolf, MSN-NMEL, RNC-OB, Executive Administrator

Break (approx. 1020-1040)

Presenters: Board Members

- Board Members provide any additional information for their assignments

Adjourn for Lunch (at the boards discretion)

- Continued discussion and plan development

Break (afternoon-at the boards discretion)

- Further discussion as needed for next steps

6. Review agenda for day 2

Chair final comments

Presenter: Danette Schloeder, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

**Adjourn**

**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

7. Call to Order/Roll Call (0900)
8. Public Comment Period- 20 minutes
9. PDMP Report (0925-0945)  
Presenter: Lisa Sherrell, PDMP Manager
10. UAF LPN program- Update (0945-1015)

Break 10:15-10:35

11. Board Training (1035-1130)

Presenter: Sara Chambers

12. Annual Report Review (1130-1150)

- Annual report- Finalize FY 2026 report for submission

LUNCH 1150-1:00 pm

13. Division Updates (1:00-1:25)

Legislative Update: Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director

Division Update: Sylvan Robb, Director

14. Appoint additional person to speak on the board's behalf as needed for legislative session (1:25-1:35)

Presenter: Danette Schloeder, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

15. BON and Licensing Reports (1:35- 2:20)

RN: Madeleine Henderson and Laura Souders, Licensing Examiner 2's

Nurse Aide: Michelle Griffin, Licensing Examiner 2

BON: Patty Wolf MSN-NMEL, RNC-OB

Break 2:20-2:40

16. Investigations Training (2:40-3:10)

Investigations team

17. Advisory Opinion- Nitrous (3:10- 3:30)

Presenter: April Erickson, DNP, APRN, CRNA

18. Develop meeting schedule

Verify August 5 & 6, November, and tentative February dates

19. Review/Assign Action item Assignments and due dates for Board Members

Chair final comments

Presenter: Danette Schloeder, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

**Adjourn**

### **Friday, May 8, 2026**

20. Call to Order/Roll Call (0900)

21. Executive Session (09:25)

Discussion of the following topics may require executive session. Only authorized members will be permitted to remain in the Board/Zoom room during executive session.

Reading of orders

22. Disciplinary Matrix update- Request approval

Presenter: Jenni Summers, Senior Investigator

Break at the Boards discretion

23. Discuss next meeting's agenda

- August 2026

24. For the Good of the Order

Presenter: Danette Schloeder, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

- Assign/Review action items.
- Any further topics or follow-up to cover
- Evaluation of board meeting

25. Chair Final Comments

**Adjourn**



# Letter FROM THE President

## POST-BOARD MEETING UPDATE

Feb. 23, 2026

Greetings Colleagues:

The NCSBN Board of Directors (BOD) convened Feb. 10–11, 2026. On behalf of the BOD, it is a privilege to update you on our strategic progress, financial health and upcoming priorities. The BOD remains focused on the organization's mission and strategic initiatives.

A significant responsibility of the BOD is to consider the Finance Committee reports and review annual fiscal audit results presented in person to the BOD by auditing firm RMS. I am pleased to share that the report yielded a clean audit with no deficiencies. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the treasurer, Finance Committee, and the Finance staff of NCSBN for their attention to this important process. The board reviewed and accepted the following reports:

- Financial statements for the period ending Dec. 31, 2025
- The Audit Financial Statements for FY25
- The Audit Retirement NCSBN 403b DC and 403b TDA Plans
- Form 990 tax return

The board also discussed and approved the NCLEX® price increase for the U.S. and Canadian NCLEX fees. Recommendations will be presented at the NCSBN Midyear Meeting in March.

NCSBN's Government Affairs division continues to work to promote the organization's legislative campaigns, lobby federal legislation and track legislation impacting nursing regulation. The staff reported on efforts to build relationships with key individuals at federal agencies to further NCSBN's strategic initiatives and objectives. The BOD received a report on the status of federal legislation that may affect nursing regulation and the nursing profession. Notably, the Department of Education (DOE) Professional Degree Rule would exclude post-baccalaureate graduate nursing degrees (PhD, DNP, MSN) from the higher of the two new federal student loan thresholds (professional vs. graduate). The DOE is accepting comments on a proposal to redefine "professional degree" that excludes post-baccalaureate nursing students from critical federal student loan resources available to students seeking degrees in other professions. The NCSBN Government Affairs staff has provided resources to the membership to assist with drafting comments as this rulemaking is expected to significantly impact patient access and the nursing workforce. The deadline for comment is March 1, 2026.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 was also signed into law, which provided critical funding for nursing programs, including Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. Programs impacted by this funding include the following:

- Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (NEPQR)
- Nurse Practitioner Optional Fellowship Program
- Nursing Workforce Diversity Program (NWD)
- National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
- Extends Medicare telehealth flexibilities until December 2027

## POST-BOARD MEETING UPDATE, CONTINUED

The BOD reviewed recommended policy revisions to Sections IV, V, VI and VII of the NCSBN Policy Manual and approved them.

CEO Phil Dickison provided updates on progress towards the strategic initiatives and objectives. Additional updates were provided on the following topics:

- The Model Act and Rules Committee works. A session at the Midyear Meeting will provide members with an overview of the committee's review and revision process and highlight opportunities for member engagement.
- APRN Compact
- Governance and Bylaws Committee Report. Recommendations will be presented at the Midyear Meeting.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Phoenix at the Midyear Meeting, where you will find information and opportunities to discuss many of the topics the BOD discussed at its meeting. I would also like to encourage all of you to give some thought to solicitations from the Leadership Succession Committee (upcoming elections) and the Awards Committee, as these represent opportunities to encourage and recognize leaders in our midst. Achieving NCSBN's mission requires ongoing support, and we hope you will reach out to us with any questions or feedback, or to explore new ways we can work together to build a stronger One NCSBN!

Sincerely,

*Phyllis Johnson, DNP, RN, FNP-BC*

**Phyllis Polk Johnson, DNP, RN, FNP-BC**

President

[pjohnson@msbn.ms.gov](mailto:pjohnson@msbn.ms.gov)

### Mission

NCSBN empowers and supports nursing regulators in their mandate to protect the public.

### Vision

Leading regulatory excellence worldwide.

### Values

Collaboration • Transparency • Innovation • Integrity • Excellence

# CHARTER COLLEGE

Date: 4/20/26

## Executive Summary

Response to NCLEX First-Time Pass Rate and Programmatic Policy Changes Charter College : Nursing Program

## Overview

Charter College respectfully submits this executive summary in response to the Alaska Board of Nursing's concern regarding the 2025 NCLEX first-time pass rate of 75%, which is below the 80% benchmark. The program has conducted a comprehensive evaluation of contributing factors and implemented immediate, data-driven changes to improve student outcomes while ensuring compliance with updated federal regulations.

## Early Identification and Contributing Factors

The decline in first-time pass rates was identified early in the 2025 cycle through ongoing program evaluation processes. Analysis revealed several contributing factors:

- **Student Progression Gaps:** Students returning after extended absences (greater than two years) were allowed to re-enter at the point of prior course failure without sufficient knowledge reinforcement, negatively impacting readiness.
- **Inconsistent Remediation Engagement:** While remediation opportunities existed, they were not uniformly required or longitudinally enforced across courses.
- **Grading Structure Misalignment:** The prior grading model allowed students to progress without demonstrating consistent exam-level mastery aligned with NCLEX expectations.
- **High-Stakes Exit Requirement:** The requirement of a 92% predicted probability on the HESI Exit Exam concentrated readiness into a single high-stakes benchmark rather than reinforcing competency throughout the curriculum.

## Regulatory Compliance and Policy Revision

Recent federal guidance identified mandatory standardized exam benchmarks tied to graduation as high-stakes testing. In response, Charter College has discontinued the 92% HESI predictability requirement to ensure full regulatory compliance.

# CHARTER COLLEGE

## Revised Grading Structure (Program-Wide Implementation)

Effective immediately, all nursing courses utilize a standardized grading model that prioritizes examination performance and clinical judgment:

**Exams: 70% of Total Course Grade**

- Unit Exams: 50% of exam category
- HESI Exams: 50% of exam category

**Coursework: 30% of Total Course Grade**

- Discussion Questions: 10%
- EAQs (Adaptive Quizzing): 10%
- Assignments: 5%
- Participation: 5%

This structure ensures that student success is driven primarily by performance on NCLEX-style assessments while maintaining engagement through structured coursework.

## Required Remediation and Longitudinal Accountability

To strengthen knowledge retention and address individual learning gaps, HESI remediation is now required for all students and embedded into subsequent coursework as a graded component.

Remediation includes:

- HESI Personalized Learning Plan: 50%
- Five Faculty-Guided Learning Labs: 50% (10% each)

Remediation is carried forward into the next term and graded as a test component, ensuring accountability and continued engagement with identified areas of weakness.

# CHARTER COLLEGE

## Additional Programmatic Interventions

The program has implemented multiple supportive and corrective strategies to improve NCLEX readiness:

- Daily Learning Labs: Increased access to structured remediation and faculty support
- Adaptive Quizzing (EAQs): Expanded use of NCLEX-style question banks to reinforce clinical judgment
- Reduced Non-Essential Assignments: Greater focus on exam preparation and application-level learning
- Faculty-Led Test Review: Strengthened processes for exam validation and alignment with NCLEX test plans

Additionally, progression policies are under revision to ensure that students returning after extended absences demonstrate current competency prior to re-entry.

## Evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement

Charter College has enhanced its systematic evaluation processes to ensure sustained improvement:

- Item Analysis: Ongoing review of exam questions to assess validity, reliability, and alignment with NCLEX standards
- Curricular Alignment: Integration of NCLEX test plan categories and clinical judgment frameworks across all courses
- Performance Monitoring: Cohort-level tracking of exam performance, HESI outcomes, and remediation completion
- Faculty Oversight: Increased accountability for grading accuracy, exam integrity, and instructional consistency

These processes ensure that data is continuously used to inform instructional and policy decisions.

## Conclusion

Charter College has taken decisive, comprehensive action to address the decline in NCLEX first-time pass rates while ensuring compliance with updated federal guidelines. The transition from a single high-stakes benchmark to a distributed, curriculum-integrated model of evaluation strengthens both student preparation and program integrity.

Through enhanced grading alignment, required remediation, strengthened progression policies, and robust evaluation processes, the program is well-positioned to improve NCLEX outcomes and maintain its commitment to graduating safe, competent, and practice-ready nurses.

Submitted by



PROBATION REPORT

DATE: April 15, 2026
TO: NUR - Board of Nursing
THROUGH: Kendra Wardlaw, Senior Investigator
FROM: Karina Medina, Investigator
SUBJECT: Probation Report for the May 8, 2026 Meeting.

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The following information was compiled as a Probation report to the Board for the period of January 14, 2026 thru April 15, 2026; This report includes probationers who are in compliance with their agreements; non compliant probationers and probationer requests to the Board.

There are currently Eighteen (18) licensee's on probation as of the date of this report. Since the last probation report, Seven (7) licensee's were released from probation.

The following is a complete list of individuals on probation for this Board that are in compliance with their Board agreements.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Case Number, Start of Probation, End of Probation. Lists individuals such as Franklin Jones, Roxanne Huzieff, Eva Velarde, Jodi WOLCOFF, SAMANTHA BELL, Viva Esquibel, JOYCE NESBY, Alixandra Stewart, Ciri Vail, CHAD HAMIK, Kristina Beeching, Ryan Coon, KARIN BRAUN, and John Hacker.

The following is a complete list of individuals on probation for this Board that are not in compliance with their Board agreements.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Start of Probation</b>	<b>End of Probation</b>	<b>Disposition Date</b>
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The following is a complete list of individuals on probation for this Board that are suspended.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Start of Probation</b>	<b>End of Probation</b>	<b>Disposition Date</b>
Amy Neel	2021-000136	02/04/2021	06/27/2028	07/10/2025

The following is a complete list of individuals on Non-Disciplinary Consent Agreements (Monitoring Status) for this Board. All individuals are in compliance with their agreements.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Start of Probation</b>	<b>End of Probation</b>	<b>Disposition Date</b>
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The following were released after probation completion.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Start of Probation</b>	<b>End of Probation</b>
Jennifer Bliss	2024-000292-Prb	08/08/2024	08/08/2029
DANIELLE REGAN	2020-000878	08/20/2020	10/19/2026
Quenna SZAFRAN	2023-000464	05/11/2023	05/11/2028
Jolene JACKINSKY	2024-000014-Prb	08/08/2024	08/08/2029
Samantha WASSILIE	2024-000231-Prb	11/07/2024	11/07/2029
Barbara Anderson	2023-000468	05/11/2023	05/11/2028
JEREMY BRUMFIELD	2025-000422-Prb	11/06/2025	11/06/2030

**Board Requests:**

- Viva Esquibel- Modification Request
- 2024-001019-Prb- Modification Request
- 2023-001003-Prb- Early Release Request

**END OF REPORT**



**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 17, 2026  
TO: Board of Nursing  
THRU: Erika Prieksat, Chief Investigator  
FROM: Ryan Bennett, Investigator  
RE: Investigative Report for the May 08, 2026 Meeting

The following information was compiled as an investigative report to the Board for the period of January 15, 2026 thru April 17, 2026; this report includes cases, complaints, and intake matters handled since the last report.

Matters opened by the Paralegals in Anchorage and Juneau, regarding continuing education audits and license action resulting from those matters are covered in this report.

**OPEN - 149**

<b><u>Case Number</u></b>	<b><u>Violation Type</u></b>	<b><u>Case Status</u></b>	<b><u>Status Date</u></b>
2025-000920	Continuing education	Complaint	09/22/2025
2026-000266	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/17/2026
2025-001129	Substance abuse	Investigation	04/13/2026

**ADVANCED NURSE  
PRACTITIONER**

2026-000306	Prescriptive practice	Intake	03/27/2026
2026-000337	Unprofessional conduct	Intake	04/06/2026
2020-000369	Prescriptive practice	Complaint	04/15/2020
2023-001053	PDMP Violation	Complaint	08/26/2025
2024-000940	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/03/2024

2025-000345	Prescriptive practice	Complaint	06/06/2025
2025-000411	Continuing education	Complaint	06/05/2025
2025-000449	Substance abuse	Complaint	06/06/2025
2025-000529	Sexual misconduct	Complaint	06/17/2025
2025-001000	Violation of Profession Statute or Regulation	Complaint	10/20/2025
2025-001050	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	11/20/2025
2025-001138	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/19/2025
2026-000101	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	02/04/2026
2026-000122	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	02/09/2026
2026-000341	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	04/06/2026
2026-000363	Unlicensed practice or activity	Complaint	04/10/2026
2026-000376	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	04/14/2026
2026-000377	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	04/14/2026
2026-000378	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	04/15/2026
2026-000379	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	04/15/2026
2026-000380	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Complaint	04/14/2026
2018-000492	Standard of care	Investigation	07/08/2021
2019-000516	Standard of care	Investigation	03/06/2026
2025-000025	Unethical conduct	Investigation	03/06/2026
2026-000009	Sexual misconduct	Closed-Investigation	

#### **CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE**

2024-000783	Continuing education	Complaint	08/29/2024
2024-000786	Continuing education	Complaint	09/05/2024
2024-000790	Continuing education	Complaint	08/29/2024
2024-000794	Continuing education	Complaint	08/29/2024
2025-001049	Patient or client abuse	Complaint	11/19/2025
2025-001156	Continuing education	Complaint	12/10/2025
2025-001222	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/23/2025
2025-001223	Fraud or misrepresentation	Complaint	12/26/2025
2026-000099	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/09/2026

2026-000296	Unlicensed practice or activity	Complaint	03/25/2026
2026-000303	Patient or client abuse	Complaint	04/03/2026
2026-000322	Continuing education	Complaint	04/07/2026
2026-000366	Patient or client abuse	Complaint	04/14/2026
2024-000604	Unprofessional conduct	Investigation	12/02/2024
2024-000791	Continuing education	Investigation	10/30/2025
2024-000793	Continuing education	Investigation	10/01/2025
2024-000843	Continuing education	Investigation	09/23/2025
2024-000859	Continuing education	Investigation	09/03/2025
2025-000175	Patient or client abuse	Investigation	07/22/2025
2025-000645	Practice beyond scope	Investigation	

### **LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE**

2026-000241	Practice beyond scope	Intake	03/10/2026
2024-001182	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/20/2024
2025-000130	Continuing education	Complaint	03/28/2025
2025-000609	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	07/25/2025
2025-001188	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/17/2025
2026-000298	Practice beyond scope	Complaint	03/25/2026
2024-001203	Unlicensed practice or activity	Investigation	11/25/2025
2025-000285	Continuing education	Investigation	01/13/2026
2025-000286	Continuing education	Investigation	02/24/2026
2026-000111	Unlicensed practice or activity	Investigation	04/08/2026

### **PHYSICIAN**

2025-001134	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/02/2025
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### **PRACTICAL NURSE**

2025-000932	Prohibited activities	Complaint	09/30/2025
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### **REGISTERED NURSE**

2026-000240	Unlicensed practice or activity	Intake	03/10/2026
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2026-000297	Unprofessional conduct	Intake	03/25/2026
2026-000311	Drug Diversion	Intake	03/27/2026
2026-000383	Unprofessional conduct	Intake	04/14/2026
2026-000400	Unprofessional conduct	Intake	04/16/2026
2022-000770	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	04/17/2023
2024-000600	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	08/16/2024
2024-000687	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	08/01/2024
2024-001028	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	10/31/2024
2024-001179	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/20/2024
2024-001181	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/20/2024
2024-001183	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/20/2024
2025-000054	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/06/2025
2025-000106	Patient or client abuse	Complaint	02/26/2025
2025-000211	Patient or client abuse	Complaint	04/08/2025
2025-000267	Standard of care	Complaint	04/08/2025
2025-000269	Standard of care	Complaint	06/13/2025
2025-000305	Unethical conduct	Complaint	04/16/2025
2025-000308	Unethical conduct	Complaint	04/16/2025
2025-000352	Continuing education	Complaint	04/30/2025
2025-000404	Continuing education	Complaint	06/05/2025
2025-000405	Continuing education	Complaint	06/05/2025
2025-000464	Substance abuse	Complaint	06/03/2025
2025-000483	Continuing education	Complaint	06/05/2025
2025-000516	Continuing education	Complaint	06/11/2025
2025-000579	Continuing education	Complaint	06/26/2025
2025-000637	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	07/28/2025
2025-000774	Substance abuse	Complaint	09/08/2025
2025-000795	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	08/28/2025
2025-000850	Continuing education	Complaint	09/08/2025
2025-000851	Substance abuse	Complaint	09/25/2025
2025-000871	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	10/02/2025

2025-000995	Drug Diversion	Complaint	10/13/2025
2025-001036	Substance abuse	Complaint	10/30/2025
2025-001045	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	11/19/2025
2025-001065	Drug Diversion	Complaint	11/18/2025
2025-001066	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	11/12/2025
2025-001086	Violation of Profession Statute or Regulation	Complaint	01/22/2026
2025-001090	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	11/18/2025
2025-001091	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/05/2025
2025-001092	Practice beyond scope	Complaint	11/25/2025
2025-001187	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	12/17/2025
2025-001217	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	01/12/2026
2025-001225	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	01/20/2026
2025-001235	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	01/07/2026
2026-000047	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/04/2026
2026-000060	Substance abuse	Complaint	01/22/2026
2026-000080	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/05/2026
2026-000084	Standard of care	Complaint	01/27/2026
2026-000085	Standard of care	Complaint	01/27/2026
2026-000088	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/02/2026
2026-000093	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/02/2026
2026-000124	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/18/2026
2026-000144	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/12/2026
2026-000153	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/26/2026
2026-000203	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	02/27/2026
2026-000228	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/06/2026
2026-000239	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/12/2026
2026-000252	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/31/2026
2026-000253	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/31/2026
2026-000267	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/18/2026
2026-000271	Unethical conduct	Complaint	03/20/2026
2026-000282	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	03/23/2026

2026-000305	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	04/03/2026
2026-000308	Violation of Profession Statute or Regulation	Complaint	04/09/2026
2026-000310	Fraud or misrepresentation	Complaint	04/09/2026
2026-000316	Physical or mental disability	Complaint	04/06/2026
2026-000329	Unlicensed practice or activity	Complaint	04/14/2026
2026-000384	Unprofessional conduct	Complaint	04/14/2026
2021-000766	Fraud or misrepresentation	Investigation	06/21/2023
2025-000133	Fraud or misrepresentation	Investigation	02/19/2026
2025-000270	Unprofessional conduct	Investigation	01/07/2026
2025-000330	Unprofessional conduct	Investigation	
2025-000347	Continuing education	Investigation	06/30/2025
2025-000351	Continuing education	Investigation	09/26/2025
2025-000379	Standard of care	Investigation	11/25/2025
2025-000413	Continuing education	Investigation	01/14/2026
2025-000434	Continuing education	Investigation	10/09/2025
2025-000481	Continuing education	Investigation	12/01/2025
2025-000485	Continuing education	Investigation	01/14/2026
2025-000512	Continuing education	Investigation	02/24/2026
2025-000522	Continuing education	Investigation	01/07/2026
2025-000583	Continuing education	Investigation	02/24/2026
2025-000749	Substance abuse	Investigation	02/10/2026
2025-001167	Unlicensed practice or activity	Investigation	04/15/2026
2025-001210	Unprofessional conduct	Investigation	04/06/2026
2025-000740	Criminal action - no conviction	Criminal Case Pending	
2026-000198	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Complaint	
2026-000238	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	

**Closed - 67**

<b><u>Case #</u></b>	<b><u>Violation Type</u></b>	<b><u>Case Status</u></b>	<b><u>Closed</u></b>	<b><u>Closure</u></b>
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2026-000001	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Intake	02/04/2026	Incomplete Complaint
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**ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER**

2026-000125	Prescriptive practice	Closed-Intake	03/12/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2021-000969	Standard of care	Closed-Complaint	02/27/2026	No Action - No Violation
2023-000066	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	02/27/2026	No Action - No Violation
2024-000640	Prescriptive practice	Closed-Complaint	01/15/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000154	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	04/07/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000523	Prescriptive practice	Closed-Complaint	01/29/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000592	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	01/16/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000601	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Complaint	02/27/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-001173	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Complaint	03/18/2026	No Action - No Violation
2020-001172	Patient or client abuse	Closed-Investigation	02/03/2026	License Action
2021-001023	Standard of care	Closed-Investigation	02/03/2026	License Action
2025-000903	Standard of care	Closed-Investigation	04/06/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-001073	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	01/26/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-001074	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	01/26/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-001174	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	01/26/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-001175	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	01/26/2026	Advisement Letter
2026-000056	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	02/19/2026	Advisement Letter
2026-000058	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	02/02/2026	Advisement Letter
2026-000059	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	02/11/2026	Advisement Letter
2026-000121	PDMP Violation: Failure to Register	Closed-Investigation	04/07/2026	Advisement Letter

**CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE**

2025-001198	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	01/21/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2024-000781	Continuing education	Closed-Complaint	02/12/2026	No Action - No Violation

2024-000787	Continuing education	Closed-Complaint	04/07/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000767	Continuing education	Closed-Complaint	04/01/2026	No Action - No Violation
2024-000792	Continuing education	Closed-Investigation	03/09/2026	License Action
2024-000858	Continuing education	Closed-Investigation	03/09/2026	License Action
2024-001136	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Investigation	01/26/2026	Advisement Letter
2024-001197	Continuing education	Closed-Investigation	04/01/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000554	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Investigation	02/02/2026	License Action
2025-001022	License Application Review/Referral	Closed-Investigation	02/25/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-001218	Falsified application	Closed-Investigation	01/26/2026	Advisement Letter

### **LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE**

2025-000519	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Complaint	01/28/2026	No Action - Insufficient Evidence
2025-000665	Practice beyond scope	Closed-Complaint	01/26/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000129	Continuing education	Closed-Investigation	02/02/2026	License Action
2025-000480	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Investigation	02/03/2026	License Action

### **REGISTERED NURSE**

2025-001189	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	01/23/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000062	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	03/03/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000102	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	03/05/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000110	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Intake	03/10/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000120	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	03/10/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000129	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	04/02/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000155	Negligence	Closed-Intake	03/16/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000188	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Intake	03/23/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2026-000230	Patient or client abuse	Closed-Intake	04/06/2026	Incomplete Complaint
2021-001199	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	02/09/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000038	Practice beyond scope	Closed-Complaint	04/08/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000514	Continuing education	Closed-Complaint	02/27/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000737	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	03/03/2026	No Action - No Violation

2025-000770	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	02/13/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000921	Continuing education	Closed-Complaint	04/07/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000922	Continuing education	Closed-Complaint	03/24/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000972	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	01/26/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-000984	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	03/23/2026	No Action - No Violation
2025-001038	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	03/13/2026	No Action - Lack of Jurisdiction
2025-001195	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Complaint	03/03/2026	No Action - Lack of Jurisdiction
2026-000086	Substance abuse	Closed-Complaint	03/13/2026	No Action - No Violation
2026-000103	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Complaint	03/13/2026	No Action - No Violation
2026-000128	Criminal action - conviction	Closed-Complaint	02/12/2026	No Action - No Violation
2022-001170	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Investigation	02/03/2026	License Action
2024-000767	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Investigation	03/02/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-000004	Falsified application	Closed-Investigation	02/04/2026	License Action
2025-000441	Unlicensed practice or activity	Closed-Investigation	02/03/2026	License Action
2025-000606	Criminal action - conviction	Closed-Investigation	02/04/2026	Consent Order
2025-000725	Unprofessional conduct	Closed-Investigation	04/13/2026	Advisement Letter
2025-000978	Substance abuse	Closed-Investigation	02/02/2026	Consent Order
2025-001144	Practice beyond scope	Closed-Investigation	04/06/2026	Advisement Letter

***END OF REPORT***

# Alaska Board of Nursing



AO 360 Response Regulation Project 1

BON Project 1 in response to AO 360 includes the following regulations. These regulations will be discussed by the board for updates, revisions, or possible repeal. And then moved through the regulation process per policy and law.

Regulation	Title of Regulation
12 AAC 44.290	Application for Examination
12 AAC 44.320	Temporary Permits
12 AAC 44.305	License by endorsement
12 AAC 44.310	Licensure by endorsement for a grad of foreign schools of nursing
12 AAC 44.312	Temp military...
12 AAC 44.317	Reinstatement of a lapsed or retired license
12 AAC 44.800	Certification by exam
12 AAC 44.805	Certification by endorsement
12 AAC 44.815	Issuance and renewal certification
12 AAC 44.820	Lapsed Certification
12 AAC 44.830	Application for training program approval
12 AAC 44.835	Training Program Standards
12 AAC 44.845	Classroom curriculum
12 AAC 44.847	Clinical Training Curriculum
12 AAC 44.852	Nurse Aide Skills Checklist
12 AAC 44.858	Training program pass rate
12 AAC 44.860	Discontinuance of a training program
12 AAC 44.885	Identification of Nurse Aides

AO 360 - Board of Nursing Project 1- Worksheet							
Board Member	Regulation	Title of Regulation	Summary of Intended changes submitted	Proposed Reg reduction (discretionary items)	Comments and notes received or through research- to be considered	Additional comments	
Marianne	12 AAC 44.290	Application for Examination	remove req. for notarized signature, remove (iii), revisit verbiage in regulation. Remove vendor specific language.	2	add transcripts for exam applicants and CGFNS for foreign graduates (for evaluation of education which would be a separate need from showing English proficiency). Without a CGFNS evaluation for the foreign graduates, examiners do not have the experience to evaluate education to make sure that it meets the board minimum requirements (for example, UK nurses may specialize during nursing school and do not have experience/education across the lifespan)	Public Comment: In Alaska, the requirement for a nursing license application to be notarized is in regulation in multiple places. This additional requirement creates a burden to the already lengthy licensure process, especially in a state like Alaska.  Solution: Remove notarized signature requirements, following most other states' licensing processes.	12 AAC 44.290(F) and 12 AAC 44.305(F) and 12 AAC 44.317
Patty	12 AAC 44.320	Temporary Permits	(b)(2) and in ( e)(3)remove temporary permit fee? It is no longer collected. Also revise ( e ) (6) to say "who graduated from a school of nursing not taught in English?"	0	44.320(g)3 references 44.317(a)(5) which has specific requirements as to how it comes to us. The Endorsement temp just says verification of license, can we remove the reference to the reinstatement regulation?		
CJ	12 AAC 44. 305	License by endorsement	(b)2(D) could be repealed due to age. (minus 1) Consider a rewrite on this entire section to remove scores. Need to correct verbiage in (H) (ii) or move it. Plus correct vendor language. Remove (1) (F)- requiring a notarized signature page (minus 1)	3	<b>Discuss the 320 hrs of work requirement.</b> Ask about what is included in a visa screen. Does it include (i)? <i>The English tests/scores required with visascreen align with the HRSA scores, so anything they did for visascreen would be acceptable, so that could be an internal policy that we could accept a visascreen or a copy of the english test result from the testing company. This would apply anywhere the English proficieny requirement is located. For the English proficiency regulation I would suggest just verification of passing an English proficiency exam if they were not taught in English. It doesn't make sense to have them provide a CGFNS evaluation showing they were taught in English if they were not taught in English.</i>	<b>for 44.305 (4) can we remove "past" and it just say employer? Some people only ever have one employer so there is no past employer. (4(b) form provided by the deparment should be removed we no longer have a form. Editors note at the bottom needs to be updated</b>	
CJ	12 AAC 44.310	Licensure by endorsement for a grad of foreign schools of nursing	Remove (D), evaluate the rest for modernization	1	Requirement of NCLEX when practicing for a long time?	in Aug of 1992 it was determined that the Canadian National exam was no longer equivalent to the NCLEX.	
Lena/Patty	12 AAC 44.312	Temp military...	possible repeal <b>due to SCRA</b>	2	Allows for the temp courtesy license for Active Duty personnel/spouse. 1. request for application form. 2. the request for AD personnel's current duty station	Consider standard language that covers all current and future ways of when we need an applicant to complete something. Research duty orders. Could this be repealed due to SCRA?	
Lena/Patty	12 AAC 44.317	Reinstatement of a lapsed or retired license	Adjust dates allowable, add (d) The board will reinstate a license to practice as a registered or practical nurse, that has lapsed less than 60 days if the applicant meets the renewal requirements described in AS 08.68.251 and 12 AAC 44.315. Remove (a)(1) (B), (b) (1) (B), (5) -first sentence. The board is revisiting the hours requirement across the board.	4	Can not this be requested during application process? Making sure that if worked overseas, nursing history will be required		Initial drafting stage - 6/11 - 2nd draft approved; ready to go to Law once AO 358 rescinded.

Danette	12 AAC 44.800	Certification by exam	(a)(1)(A, C, D) Can remove all recency requirements (e.g. CNA training completed within past two years, five years, etc.) -- (a)(2) English proficiency not required by CFR 483.152 -- (a)(1)(B - E) alternative/equivalent training not mandatory, (a)(1)(A) is defensible under 12 AAC 44.835) because it ensures OBRA compliance		<b>2</b> (a)(1)(A, C, D) Can remove all recency requirements (e.g. CNA training completed within past two years, five years, etc.) -- (a)(2) English proficiency not required by CFR 483.152 -- (a)(1)(B - E) alternative/equivalent training not mandatory, (a)(1)(A) is defensible under 12 AAC 44.835) because it ensures OBRA compliance -- <b>Summary: State decides which routes satisfy OBRA's 75 hour training requirement, as long as the State determines that training to satisfy 483.152</b>	Provide links to help show the board members.	This should be simplified and inline with RN. Is CGFNS the only entity allowed. Their name is updated.	Proprietary names should not be listed in regulations as they change frequently.
Danette	12 AAC 44.805	Certification by endorsement	Remove (4) (A)	<b>1</b>	Cannot be removed otherwise there would be no other pathway for a CNA certificate unless you took a course and competency evaluation again.		If they have an unencumbered license do they need the English proficiency?	regulation requires proof of training which can be difficult for older CNA's as their schools have closed. Allow a pathway to apply by examination in lieu of proof of education for a Nurse Aide with a valid certificate from another
Danette	12 AAC 44.815	Issuance and renewal certification	Revisit and remove hours worked requirement	<b>2</b>	Is 160 hours (4 weeks of 52) necessary?			
Danette	12 AAC 44.820	Lapsed Certification	review hours req.	<b>1</b>	How many employment hours are required in fed regs. Kelly to provide	Federal Regulation: Link- <a href="https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-G/part-483/subpart-D/section-483.151">https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-G/part-483/subpart-D/section-483.151</a> 483.156 Registry of nurse aides (c) Registry Content (2) The registry must remove entries for individuals who have performed no nursing or nursing related services for a period of 24 consecutive months, unless the individuals registry entry includes documented findings of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of property.		
Danette	12 AAC 44.830	Application for training program approval	Remove 90 day requirement x 2	<b>2</b>	(a)90 days is to allow for review and preparation for board meeting. (a)(4) Nothing in federal regulations-can be removed (b)(1) & (3) can be removed- information in curriculum and schedule as seen in (7) (b)(5) can be removed as "program location" would be included in application in (a)(1) <b>(c) Cannot be removed- Federal requirement- See 483.151(d)-"Timeframe for acting on a request for approval"</b>	Meets fed regulations- anything in red= fed regs black is in our's only	This should be similar to the RN program regs.	

Marianne	12 AAC 44.835	Training Program Standards	Remove 4 items <b>not required by Federal law</b>	4	(a)(1-5) can be removed (b)(2) <b>Cannot be removed- Federal requirement for instructors 483.152(5 (b)(3) Can be removed- the facility requirements are guided through DHSS/ACPE and verbiage is included within (g) of this section. (b)(4) Can be removed. Can be governed by ACPE/DHSS (c) Working on researching other States hour requirements. Federal minimum is 75 hours (includes 16 hrs skills training/ 16 hours supervised practical training)- See Federal regulation 483.152 for Curriculum related regulations. (f) can be remove (j) Need to do more research on ratios</b>	Recommend keeping items in red text as meets federal regulations. Can open up regulation project for other items to be removed.		
Marianne	12 AAC 44.845	Classroom curriculum	revisit draft regulation project previously approved by the board	4	adding a 1( e) training on person centered care and C vi knowledge of the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's or cognitive impairment	Draft language for a regulation project was voted on and approved at the May 2025 BON meeting. Project was not submitted due to AO restriction		
Marianne	12 AAC 44.847	Clinical Training Curriculum	<b>revisit draft regulation project (72 items) previously approved by the board</b>	10	Same as above- Keep required hours, match curriculum list from federal regulations.....????????????	suggest opening up for re-wording		
Marianne	12 AAC 44.852	Nurse Aide Skills Checklist	Repeal	6	???? Remove whole section	Suggest opening to <u>remove</u> or <u>revise</u> what should be included in the checklist (all curriculum?) or just 16 hours of Supervised Practical training as listed in Federal regulations- Federal regulations do not indicate a "checklist" is required. Fed regulation states " <i>Include at least 16 hours of supervised practical training. Supervised practical training means training in a laboratory or other setting in which the trainee demonstrates knowledge while performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.</i>	Board Member: No change that I am requesting	
Patty/Kelly	12 AAC 44.858	Training program pass rate	remove (g)	1	historical was to match Nursing ed requirement in our regulations. The letters of corrective action and pass rates do hold the TPs accountable and have had beneficial outcomes after receiving low scores. Recommend keeping the training program pass rate. There are 3 other states that have a number threshold for pass rate (Arizona. 80% Hawaii: 70% Florida: TP must maintain a passing rate for it graduates of not less than 10% below the state average as reported annually).			
Patty/Kelly	12 AAC 44.860	Discontinuance of a training program	Repeal	3	Match RN training programs.			
Patty/Kelly	12 AAC 44.885	Identification of Nurse Aides	Repeal	2				

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Break

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Adjourned for Lunch

# Alaska Board of Nursing



For the Good of the Order

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Chair Final Comments/Adjourn

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #1



Roll Call/Call to Order

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Public Comment Period

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board, Nursing \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT: Request for Advisory Opinion/Guidance to the MSBSD School Board on the Proposed Budget Cuts and Replacing Nurses Via a New Nursing Delegation Model  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2026 7:23:47 AM

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Date: March 16, 2026

Subject: Formal Concern: Institutional Pressure, Licensure Risk, and "Oregon Model" Misconceptions

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Nursing,

I am writing as a concerned partner of an RN within the school district. I am stepping forward because many on the front lines are currently facing institutional pressure that makes it difficult to speak out without fear of retaliation or professional isolation. I do not speak for them, I am merely speaking up for my own peace of mind.

I did some homework and also have been asking a lot of questions. It is concerning that the School Board is proposing changes (Agenda of proposed budget cuts and March 5th meeting video) without a full grasp of the state-mandated regulations that dictate how school nursing must actually function to stay legal. It seems there is a large gap between the Board's understanding of nursing operations and the state regulations that govern nursing licenses and I am worried of the fall-out or legal traps my partner could end up cornered in. The Board also does not seem to comprehend why a medical provider can have only certified medical assistants without nursing oversight. I would think it is because the medical provider is in the actual building and those workers are borrowing that individual's license? They also mentioned consulting with a doctors office about certified nurse aide potential in place of a nurse being in the building. Don't both types of practice (medical and nursing) have their own separate boards governing them? Why didn't they ask you?

In 2014, when a student died, the nurse was in the building. The nurse was also separately held accountable by the family. The district made "quiet restitution" and the nurse was left to fend for themselves. That nurse was also denied workman's comp by the district configuring that PTSD is not a condition acquired from having had a child die right in front of them because death is something that comes with the job description and nurses expect to be exposed to that. They also believed bodily fluid contamination is not something a nurse would not be concerned/stressed about, or lose any sleep over, and the provider they required her to see stated that any mental health issues were present prior to that specific time of employment. The exact opposite of her own primary care provider. You can find that information in the Alaska Court System. This is what our nurses are expected to be exposed to and supposed to be okay with.

The following year (2015) some remember the School Board unanimously voting 7-0 that 1:1 nursing was the safest and only model to utilize. Now ironically during MSBSD "Safety Week" they seek to overturn that decision and mention a "fix" of reclassifying nurses from

certified (degree holding) to classified (support staff) and hiring CNA's or other various "health aids" to make up for the missing RN's on site as if they have similar abilities, but at a lower pay scale, "Because Oregon only has CNAs in their schools." Which makes no sense because the nurses already come in on a teachers pay scale and not on a clinical one. It was said in the March 4th Public meeting that if a nurse has a decade of experience, but only one year of official pediatrics they are hired at a graduate teacher scale with one year of experience. It seems to me to be quite a bargain already. The nurses aren't even complaining about that, they are merely worried about our children's safety outcomes. I even had the "Golden Window" of emergency aid explained to me. That is a huge deal someone licensed and not in the building cannot feasibly provide. It seems irresponsible and negligent of the School Board to assume it is okay to purposefully create that type of situation.

The establishment appears to need your consultation and aren't even aware of it.

#### 1. The Licensure Trap

The proposal to cut nursing staff by 50% is a direct threat to the professional licenses of the remaining staff. Under 12 AAC 44.770, a nurse is responsible for preventing substantial harm. If an emergency occurs at "School A" while a nurse is assigned to be at "School B," the law holds the nurse accountable, not the administrators who made the cut. This model forces nurses to choose between their jobs and their professional standing as well as being expected to walk away from a duty they are also locked into. To have to choose one child over another.

#### 2. The Delegation and "Public Nuisance" Risk

During the March 5th board meeting, it was suggested that the district could simply hire CNAs or health aides to fill in the gap when nurses are in completely separate locations. Under 12 AAC 44.950, an RN must be "readily available" to supervise delegated tasks. In a shared-school model, an RN cannot be "readily available." Furthermore, AS 08.68.360 defines nursing by unlicensed persons without proper oversight as a "public nuisance." The district is proposing a system that is legally precarious at best and illegal at worst. Please correct me if I am wrong, but was it not also decided by the Board of Nursing in January 2025 that "telephone/telehealth" between a nurse in one location and a "certified" health aid, is not a work around for in person licensing requirements? I'm not even sure if the School Board understands the difference between what certified is and what licensed actually means. CNA almost seems to mean mini nurse with similar abilities.

#### 3. Correcting the "Oregon Model" Narrative

It was mentioned in the March 5th MSBSD meeting that "Oregon just uses CNAs." This is a fundamental misunderstanding? It appears that Oregon law (ORS 336.201) requires RN-led coordination and mandates strict staffing ratios for medically fragile students. It seems Oregon uses CNAs as support to an RN, not as a replacement for one. They work together and not from two different locations.

#### 4. Lessons from Fairbanks

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's "skeleton crew" experiment failed in Fairbanks. In February of this year their administration requested over six million dollars in aid toward their FY27 budget to restore cut positions because they realized that cutting teachers and nurses left their schools operationally unstable. Now the MSBSD is aiming straight for the same mistakes and propose creating a drop in 50% of onsite safety for our children.

I am asking the Board of Nursing to provide a formal statement to the Mat-Su Borough School District on whether a "shared-school" model where an RN is not physically present meets the state's legal definition of safe nursing practice. Our families should not have to carry the legal liability for the district's budget decisions nor the 911 bills that will also accompany it.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Toms

March 19th, 2026

To the Alaska Board of Nursing:

I have spent a significant amount of time assessing the implications of virtual nursing as it is currently in use. I understand that the Board may not have the ability to regulate every aspect of this technology, particularly Governor Dunleavy's objective for the Board is to reduce regulations. But I hope that the Board will take seriously the likelihood that virtual nursing is merely a foreshadowing for far more powerful and possibly disruptive technology in healthcare. The Board's role in protecting the public in this space is of great importance.

I will outline my concerns/suggestions in a similar format to my testimony in January. Several of my questions were not answered clearly. PAMC's public testimony on the week of my own testimony added even more muddiness to this conversation.

As I discussed in January, the Board's "Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework" states that a delegated activity, intervention or role should be "consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature". No compelling evidence exists describing virtual nursing in this light. I encourage the Board to consider that this inconsistency could persist with the advent of AI technology in healthcare delivery. If this Framework is unenforceable, perhaps it should either *not* be published or instead outlined in Regulations where the state could provide legitimate enforcement of the trialing of experimental technology on Alaskans.

In January I detailed the lack of clarity around the distribution of tasks between virtual nurses and bedside nurses. PAMC management endorses that the "job description and work requirements" of virtual nurses are the same as their bedside colleagues. Furthermore, Carrie Peluso claimed in her testimony that "the virtual nurse is responsible for care which is conducted with the patient but which is not needed for the nurse to be at the bedside." Her statement does not align with the current practices by bedside or virtual nurses at PAMC. I have personally witnessed how the lack of role delineation between virtual and bedside nurses increases the likelihood of missed care. I believe that the Board should consider regulations which obligate healthcare facilities to publish a clear delineation of tasks between caregivers with the same scope of practice and "work requirements".

PAMC management asserted the following in their January testimony: "In a virtual nursing model, the vRN is functioning as a supervising registered nurse for specific delegated activities such as vital signs, ambulation, and/or routine care tasks—these tasks that fall within the training and scope of a PCT or CNA when the pt is stable and task is appropriate. The vRN performs assessments and judgements, determines what can be safely delegated, provides direction, and remains accountable for the outcome." These claims are categorically false and not in line with current practice nor hospital policy at PAMC. If virtual nurses carried the responsibility outlined above on the Progressive Care Unit for instance, they would be "supervising" all routine care tasks for 15-18 patients performed by three separate PCT's. This would amount to supervision/delegation of easily over 500 tasks in a 12 hour period. I believe that the Board

should consider whether it is safe for patients or safe for the licensure of the nurses if virtual nurses can “supervise” PCTs.

In my January testimony, I briefly described how PAMC management has instructed PCT's to rely first on other PCT's to complete patient cares. Management detailed this in an email in Fall of 2024 which stated the following: “PCT's will use a PCT buddy first prior to getting assistance from nursing. Have them utilize their buddy for both needs and questions.” Their expectation eliminates the bedside nurse from the line of delegation and puts PCT's in a position of determining whether the care requires the oversight of a nurse or can be safely completed by two “buddied” unlicensed personnel. It does not appear that these instructions are aligned with the Board's regulations on delegation as outlined in section 12 AAC 44.950.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Madison Eckhart, RN

# Alaska Board of Nursing



PDMP Update

# Alaska Board of Nursing



## UAF LPN Program Update



# PROGRAM UPDATE

## MAY 2026

# FACULTY UPDATES

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- Nurse Administrator Audrey McDaniel has earned the Academic Practical/Vocational Nurse Educator Certification (CNEpv) through the National League for Nursing (NLN). This certification was confirmed on March 3, 2026, and remains valid through December 31, 2031.
- Assistant Professor Laura Fowle, who holds a master's degree in Management and Leadership as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), has applied to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) to pursue a Master's degree in Leadership and Nursing Education
- Program Assistant Timothy Verreault was hired on January 12, 2026. He holds an active Alaska RN license and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He is a retired Army nurse with 17 years of nursing experience. Timothy supports the skills lab by assisting with skills checkoffs and provides clinical rotation coverage as needed.

# Student Admissions

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- 17 students currently enrolled across two concurrent cohorts, one comprising 9 students and the other with 8 students all with projection to graduate in August 2026
- We are currently accepting applications for the next cohort, scheduled to begin on August 24, 2026. The program plans to select 20 qualified candidates, who will be divided into two concurrent cohorts of 10 participants each.
- The application deadline for candidates is June 15, 2026. Following the deadline, interviews will be conducted over a two-week period, and final selections will be made using the established selection rubric.
- As of this date, there are currently 44 potential candidates who have started on the process.

# Curriculum Development

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- It became evident during the Spring semester that the lecture course, *Nursing Care Across the Lifespan for the LPN*, was overly content-intensive for the time allotted. The volume and complexity of the material made it challenging to deliver the content effectively in a way that supported optimal student comprehension and retention.
- We have developed a revised curriculum plan for the next cohort that redistributes the content into a separate Mental Health course and a separate Maternal-Pediatric course. This restructuring will allow for more effective content delivery and better support student learning, comprehension, and retention
- As part of the curriculum restructuring, Clinical I was removed from the first semester, reducing first-semester clinical hours by 84 hours to allow for the incorporation of the new 3-credit Mental Health course. Students will continue to complete Clinical II and Clinical III, resulting in a total of 240 clinical hours by graduation.
- Additionally, a separate Maternal-Pediatric course will be added in the third semester, increasing the curriculum outline by an additional 3 credits.
- Syllabi for new courses sent as attached document

# Curriculum Outline Prior to Changes

Prerequisites required	COURSES	TITLES	CREDITS
		Placement into WRTG F111X Placement into MATH F105 And admittance to the LPN program of study	
<b>Semester One</b>	LPN Core Curriculum		
	LPN F100 Lecture LPN F102 LPN Skills I LPN F120 LPN Clinical I LPN F104 Lecture HLTH F114 Lecture	Foundations of the Professional Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Licensed Practical Nurse Skills Lab I Licensed Practical Nurse Clinical I Fundamentals of Anatomy & Physiology Medical Terminology	
			15
<b>Semester Two</b>	LPN F140 Lecture LPN F142 LPN Skills II LPN F160 Clinical II LPN F248 Lecture	Nursing Care Across the Lifespan for the LPN Licensed Practical Nurse Skills Lab II Licensed Practical Nurse Clinical II Pharmacology for the Licensed Practical Nurse	3 (42) 2 (0+54+0) 3 (0+0+120) 3 (56)
			11
<b>Semester Three</b>	LPN F180 Lecture LPN F182 LPN Skills III LPN F190 Clinical III	Leadership, Delegation & Scope of Practice of the LPN Licensed Practical Nurse Skills Lab III Licensed Practical Nurse Clinical III	3 (42) 2 (0+54+0) 3 (0+0+120)
			8
		Total Core Curriculum	34
<b>Recommended</b>	HLTH F208	Human Disease	3

# Curriculum Outline after changes

	COURSES	TITLES	CREDITS
Prerequisites required		Placement into WRTG F111X Placement into MATH F105 And admittance to the LPN program of study	
Semester One	LPN Core Curriculum		
	LPN F100 Lecture LPN F102 LPN Skills I LPN F104 Lecture HLTH F114 Lecture HLTH F114 Lecture	Foundations of the Professional Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Licensed Practical Nurse Skills Lab I Foundations of Mental Health Care for the Licensed Practical Nurse Fundamentals of Anatomy & Physiology Medical Terminology	3 (42) 3 (0+84+0) 3 (42) 4 (56+0+0) 3
			16
Semester Two	LPN F140 Lecture LPN F142 LPN Skills II LPN F160 Clinical II LPN F248 Lecture	Nursing Care Across the Lifespan for the LPN Licensed Practical Nurse Skills Lab II Licensed Practical Nurse Clinical II Pharmacology for the Licensed Practical Nurse	3 (42) 2 (0+54+0) 3 (0+0+120) 3 (56)
			11
Semester Three	LPN F180 Lecture LPN F182 LPN Skills III LPN F184 Lecture LPN F190 Clinical III	Leadership, Delegation & Scope of Practice of the LPN Licensed Practical Nurse Skills Lab III Maternity and Pediatric Nursing for the LPN Licensed Practical Nurse Clinical III	3 (42) 2 (0+54+0) 3 (42) 3 (0+0+120)
			11
		Total Core Curriculum	38
Recommended	HLTH F208	Human Disease	3

# Faculty Meeting Minutes

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- Faculty meet bi-weekly using a general agenda that includes curriculum updates, student concerns, grading and student progress, clinical rotations, lecture schedules, skills lab needs, supply ordering, faculty training and development, faculty time-off schedules, open discussion/new business, and action items and assignments.
- Meeting minutes were sent as an attached document

# NCLEX pass rates

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- No new news to report as we are yet to graduate the current cohort August 2026
- Kaplan was introduced to the current cohort at the beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
- Lippincott NCLEX-PN Pass Point was introduced to students January 2026. Lippincott NCLEX-PN Adaptive Quiz assignments are incorporated into the curriculum as homework assignments

NCLEX-PN PASS RATES FOR COHORT #1

# Students Enrolled	# Students Completed	# Students Tested	NCLEX-PN 1 <sup>st</sup> Time Pass Rate	NCLEX-PN Overall Pass Rate
8	5 (62%)	5	3 (60%)	4 (80%)

# Accreditation Status

- Accredited by ACEN as of 04/10/2025 and due for renewal Fall 2029

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LPN Program Administrator

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# Alaska Board of Nursing



Break

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Board Training



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS TRAINING**

## *Executive Branch Ethics Act for Board Members – Fall 2025*

### **What is the Executive Branch Ethics Act?**

The Executive Branch Ethics Act is a set of statutes and interpretive regulations that establish transparent expectations regarding decision-making by public officials. It includes standards and processes to declare, determine, and report potential ethical conflicts and suspected violations. All state officials must know, understand, and adhere to these while conducting the public's business.

The foundational content of these slides is provided by the Department of Law and is available with additional resources at <https://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html>. The statutes and regulations are the source documentation for any questions you may have. However, this training will summarize many of the requirements of the Ethics Act, to help you:

- Understand the requirements
- Recognize when you may need to take action
- Identify how to get help
- Learn the appropriate steps to resolve and report the issue.

### **Why is this information important?**

Understanding the Ethics Act is important because:

- As public servants, we owe the public a duty to behave ethically.
- As individuals, we want to do what's right.
- It's the law: penalties for violating the Ethics Act can be severe, including civil penalties up to \$5000, repayment of up to twice the amount of the benefit gained by the violation, invalidation of official actions, criminal penalties, and personal liability if warranted.

### **The Basics (AS 39.52)**

Each executive branch department, agency, board, and commission has a designated ethics supervisor. Your designated ethics supervisor is the person you should contact about ethics issues. The chair of a board or commission serves as the designated ethics supervisor for the other members of that board or commission. Board staff and board chairs should work together to ensure members are aware of this information.

The Ethics Act requires you not to:

- Misuse your official position
- Accept improper gifts
- Improperly use or disclose information
- Improperly influence state grants, contracts, leases, or loans
- Improperly represent others
- Hold improper outside employment
- Hold improper employment after leaving state service
- Aid in a violation of the Ethics Act.

### **Misuse of Official Position (AS 39.52.120)**

The Ethics Act prohibits misuse of an official position in several ways, including:

- Using an official position for personal gain
- Obtaining or granting unwarranted benefits or treatment for any person
- Seeking other employment or contracts
- Accepting compensation from anyone other than the state for performing official duties
- Using state time, property, equipment, or other facilities to benefit personal or financial interests.

Another type of misuse is **taking or withholding “official action” on a matter** if the person taking the action has a personal or financial interest in that matter. Official action includes making recommendations, giving advice, participating, or assisting on a matter.

- “Personal interests” include an interest, membership, or other involvement in any organization from which anyone receives a benefit.
- “Financial interests” include involvement or ownership interest in a business, property, or other relationship that is a source of income or from which a financial benefit has been received or is expected.

The Ethics Act allows exceptions when the financial interest involved is insignificant. For example, stock or other ownership interest in a business is presumed insignificant if the value is less than \$5,000.

**These interests extend to your immediate family members**, including your spouse, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and your spouse’s parents, siblings.

Commonly, board and commission members may face decisions involving their own business, a competitor’s business, a person they supervise, a person they are related to, a class of people or businesses they belong to, or a policy that will impact their business.

Board members should refrain from serving in leadership of industry groups or helping form association positions relating to policies that may come before the state board, unless they seek recusal from the conversation and vote.

**The Ethics Act also prohibits improper attempts to influence the outcome of an administrative hearing.** Contacts with the hearing officer, administrative law judge, or the individual, board, or commission with authority to make the final decision in a case must be promptly disclosed.

### **Improper Gifts (AS 39.52.130)**

The Ethics Act prohibits receipt of improper gifts. “Gifts” include any benefit to a personal or financial interest, such as money, services, loans, travel, entertainment, hospitality, employment, or promises.

**A gift of travel or lodging for a trip** you take as part of your official duties is proper if the monetary value is comparable to the cost the state would have had to pay, it is approved and reported properly, and either your agency’s head determines ahead of time that the gift is to the state, or the travel or lodging is incidental transportation by an individual.

**A gift from a lobbyist to you or your immediate family members** is presumed improper unless the lobbyist is an immediate family member.

An occasional gift worth \$50 or less is presumed proper unless rebutted by other evidence.

If you receive a gift worth more than \$150, you must report it to your designated ethics supervisor within 30 days if you may take or withhold official action affecting the person who gave you the gift. **If unsure, it is wise to simply report the gift.**

You must report a gift received by a family member if you know or ought to know that the family member received the gift because of their connection with your public office.

If you accept a gift from any other government, you must report it in writing to the Office of the Governor through your DES within 60 days.

### **Improper Use or Disclosure of Information (AS 39.52.40)**

During or after your state service, you may not disclose or use certain information you gained in connection with your official duties unless you have proper authorization. Information has been “publicly disseminated” if it has been published through various means such as newspaper publication, broadcast media, a press release, a newsletter, a legal notice, a nonconfidential court filing, a published report, an agency’s website, or a public speech.

### **Improper Influence in Grants, Contracts, Leases, Loans (AS 39.52.150)**

The Ethics Act prohibits you and your immediate family from receiving certain state grants, contracts, leases, and loans if you may take or withhold official action affecting the award, execution, or administration of that grant, contract, lease, or loan.

### **Improper Representation (AS 39.52.160)**

The Ethics Act generally prohibits you from representing, advising, or assisting a person in any matter pending before the administrative unit you serve. Even without compensation, you may not represent, advise, or assist a person in any matter pending before the administrative unit you serve to benefit a personal or financial interest.

### **Outside Employment Restricted (AS 39.52.170)**

**For two years after you leave state service, you may not represent, advise, or assist a person for compensation regarding a “matter” in which you participated “personally and substantially” during your state service.** You are prohibited from working as a paid lobbyist for one year after leaving state service.

There are two exceptions to the first restriction: you may contract with a state agency to work on a matter on behalf of the state, and the head of an agency may waive the restriction if granting a waiver would not harm the public interest.

For this restriction, “matter” includes a case, proceeding, application, contract, or determination; the proposal or consideration of a legislative bill, resolution, constitutional amendment, or other legislative measure; or the proposal, consideration, or adoption of an administrative regulation.

### **Seeking Advice and Reporting Requirements (AS 39.52.210-270)**

The Ethics Act relies on you to report your own gifts, outside employment, and interests in state grants, contracts, leases, and loans. It also relies on you to report any situation that has produced or might produce a violation of the Act.

**To get advice, you should complete a “notification of potential violation” form or a “request for ethics determination” form, submit it to your designated ethics supervisor, and wait for a determination before taking any action.** It doesn’t matter much which form you use; what matters is recognizing when there is an ethics issue, reporting it, asking for advice, waiting for that advice, and following the advice.

Colleagues and members of the public may also report potential ethics violations to a public officer’s designated ethics supervisor. For ethics reports from or about a board or commission member, the designated ethics supervisor will make a written determination and provide copies to the official and the attorney general.

**The DES for a board or commission may seek advice from the attorney general when determining whether a member of a board or commission is involved in a matter that might lead to a violation of the Ethics Act.**

As long as you disclose all relevant facts in requesting the advice, you will not be liable under the Ethics Act for any actions you take in following the attorney general’s advice.

Every quarter, each designated ethics supervisor must submit a quarterly report to the attorney general. The report is confidential and describes the facts, circumstances, and disposition of any reports of potential ethics violations during that quarter. The attorney general reviews the determinations described in the quarterly reports and submits them to the Personnel Board.

### **Resources**

Ask your board chair as Designated Ethics Supervisor or the department DES for assistance, including connecting with the state ethics attorney. Information about the Ethics Act is available on the Department of Law’s ethics web page: <http://www.law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html>. Advisory opinions interpreting the Ethics Act are available on the Department of Law’s website.

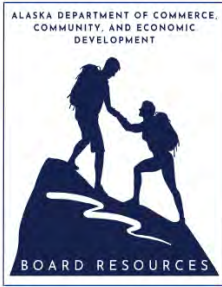
Sara Chambers

*Boards and Regulations Advisor*

*Designated Ethics Supervisor*

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

[sara.chambers@alaska.gov](mailto:sara.chambers@alaska.gov) - 907.465.2144



## Guidance for Government Board Members:

### *Industry Entanglement: Cautions and Strategies to Prevent Conflicts*

## DCCED Boards and Regulations Resources

May 2025

*The guidance below is founded upon advice from the state ethics attorney and amplified by the DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor to provide additional contextual relevance for state government board members. This is not a replacement for reading the statutes and regulations encompassed in the [Executive Branch Ethics Act](#). Questions and feedback are welcomed; please email [sara.chambers@alaska.gov](mailto:sara.chambers@alaska.gov).*

### Introduction

Serving on both a state regulatory or advisory board and the board of the industry association it regulates creates many inherent points of friction. This potential conflict extends to persons employed by an industry organization with business before the board. Some conflicts may violate state law and create legal problems for yourself, the board, and others associated with the issue. If a potential conflict is detected, plan ahead and learn how to declare a potential conflict on an issue and request recusal from the chair, who is the board's designated ethics supervisor. This requires incredibly thorough preparation prior to all state and association board meetings and readiness during these meetings to act appropriately and step away, if needed.

### Conflicts of interest under the Executive Ethics Act (AS 39.52):

- **Misuse of official position:** A public officer may not use, or attempt to use, an official position for personal gain, and may not intentionally secure or grant unwarranted benefits or treatment for any person.

A public officer may not

- (1) seek other employment or contracts through the use or attempted use of official position;
- (2) accept, receive, or solicit compensation for the performance of official duties or responsibilities from a person other than the state;
- (3) use state time, property, equipment, or other facilities to benefit personal or financial interests;
- (4) take or withhold official action in order to affect a matter in which the public officer has a personal or financial interest;
- (5) attempt to benefit a personal or financial interest through coercion of a subordinate or require another public officer to perform services for the private benefit of the public officer at any time;

Definitions:

- a. "Personal interest" means an interest held or involvement by a public officer, or the officer's immediate family member or parent, including membership, in any organization, whether fraternal, nonprofit, for profit, charitable, or political, from which, or as a result of which, a person or organization receives a benefit;
- b. "Financial interest" means
  - (A) an interest held by a public officer or an immediate family member, which includes an involvement or ownership of an interest in a business, including a property ownership, or a professional or private relationship, that is a source of income, or from which, or as a result of which, a person has received or expects to receive a financial benefit;
  - (B) holding a position in a business, such as an officer, director, trustee, partner, employee, or the like, or holding a position of management;
- c. "Benefit" means anything that is to a person's advantage or self-interest, or from which a person profits, regardless of the financial gain, including any dividend, pension, salary, acquisition,

agreement to purchase, transfer of money, deposit, loan or loan guarantee, promise to pay, grant, contract, lease, money, goods, service, privilege, exemption, patronage, advantage, advancement, or anything of value.

- **Improper use or disclosure of information:**
  - a. You must ensure you don't make industry association decisions based on confidential information received in your role as a state board member.
  - b. You may not share confidential information with anyone outside of those who were present (board members, attorney, staff) when it was revealed.
- **Improper representation:** You may advise or assist the association or stakeholders (grantees, licensees, etc.) with matters that may come before the board, as long as you properly declare the potential conflict and are removed from the deliberation and vote on the matter, if the chair determines conflict exists. Be careful—aiding a stakeholder in a matter that ultimately is the board's purview may create other personal liabilities for the board member, such as providing incorrect or misleading advice. Always refer procedural questions to staff.

**Some conflicts may not violate laws relating to board service; however, they may frustrate the process or relationships:**

**Misrepresentation of position:** Listeners may not clearly understand who you are representing when you convey a position or opinion. This includes when testifying in legislative committee, when speaking privately with a legislator or legislative staffer, speaking to the industry association or related organizations, speaking to the public, speaking with licensees. They may take away that the state government board has a particular position when you actually meant what you said wearing your association hat—or vice versa.

**Confusion about representation or loyalty:** It is difficult to serve two masters.

- Serving the best interests of the state must come first, which means the industry association may suffer from your inability to perform as a board member or engage fully in the life of the organization.
- The Alaska Code of Conduct that you signed when appointed states that you will “Strive beyond the norm to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest that may compromise the integrity of the board.”
- Everything may be going well when interests align—but what about when they don't? How do you choose which side to take and do so transparently?
  - a. Are you willing to jeopardize the integrity of a board process, potentially resulting in increased frustration and legal expenses?

A member of a state regulatory board may need to make the difficult decision whether they wish to be a regulator or if they wish to be a leader of the organization that essentially advocates its position to the regulator. It's complicated to be both, especially when situations go sideways.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Potential Conflicts of Interest

---

**Q1: Can a board member engage in discussions at association meetings about open board regulations?**

**A:** No. Discussing or overhearing open board matters in association settings—especially with association members involved in those matters—can raise concerns about misuse of position, improper influence, and unfair treatment. It may appear that the board member is basing decisions on association input rather than the public interest. The board member should recuse his or herself from those discussions or prepare to recuse his or herself from participating regarding the open matter as part of the board. At no time should the board member disclose confidential or non-public information gained as a board member to the association.

**Q2: What if a board member participates in association policy decisions that may later come before the board?**

**A:** This creates a conflict of interest. Under AS 39.52.220, the member must declare the conflict on the record and abstain from any board deliberation, vote, or participation on that matter. There's a risk that private association discussions improperly inform public decisions.

**Q3: Is it acceptable for an association to compensate a board member for travel, meals, or other expenses while doing work that overlaps with board business?**

**A:** No. Accepting outside compensation for state work is not allowed. If the association covers expenses related to work that could reasonably be viewed as board-related (e.g., legislative advocacy), the member must file a **gift disclosure** form. If the State is covering travel for board business, the member may not extend the trip at State expense to do association work; any association-related days or expenses must not be state-funded.

**Q4: Can a board member testify on legislation while representing both the board and the association?**

**A:** It depends. If the activity of the board is such that all members vote to determine the board's position on legislation, then the member who is part of an industry association that is actively speaking out on that same legislation would need to have already recused him or herself from the matter. This recusal would carry over and prevent subsequent testimony concerning the board's position. But, if the member is going to testify on board matters as well as industry association matters where the member was not conflicted out, then the member is free to do so as long as he or she **clearly identifies which "hat" he or she is wearing** and provides proper disclaimers identifying when the member is or is not speaking on behalf of the board. It's essential to clarify whether the member is speaking on behalf of the board or on behalf of the association. They cannot speak as representatives of both simultaneously.

**When There Is Not Likely a Conflict**

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**Q5: Can a board member who is a member of the industry vote on regulatory standards that apply to all stakeholders?**

**A:** Typically, yes. If the matter affects all stakeholders equally and doesn't confer a substantial personal benefit to the board member, it's not considered a conflict.

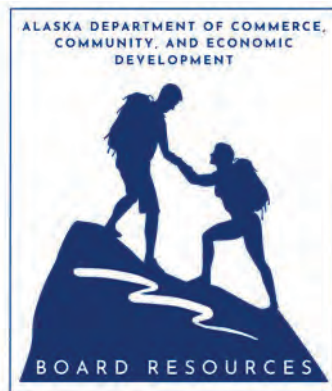
**Q6: What if the board member is an association member but doesn't participate in association decisions or discussions related to board topics?**

**A:** If the member remains passive in association decision-making and avoids discussions on board-related topics, there's usually no substantial conflict.

**Q7: What if the board member is a volunteer or representational lobbyist of an association?**

**A:** The same kind of analysis applies regarding any potential overlap between board work and association work. There may be additional concerns relating to requirements managed by the [Alaska Public Offices Commission](#).

**GUIDE TO EXCELLENCE IN REGULATION**  
*for*  
**PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**



**UPDATED MARCH 2026**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

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It is the obligation of each board or commission member, as well as the staff, to ensure that the public's business is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the standards set out in applicable law. Changes to this guide may be made at any time, so ensure you are referencing the most current edition. This guidance may not reflect every situation or circumstance, so please reach out for assistance.

We hope this document assists you in understanding, embracing, and flourishing in the role of regulatory board member.

---

## I. Introduction

Welcome to service as a member of a State of Alaska licensing board or commission. The mission of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers. This means that members of boards and commissions, as well as division staff, are charged with providing access to services and employment opportunities while maintaining high standards of public protection. It is the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's goal to support and equip the division and its boards to succeed in this mission.

You are embarking on an important role as a regulator of Alaska professions. There is prestige in being a board or commission member. However, the position of a board or commission member is like a second job, involving many hours of work with little public recognition. It is a labor of love and commitment, and the reward is reflected in an improved quality of life for residents of the State of Alaska.

Board and commission members bring valuable experience and perspective to this responsibility. However, stretching your existing knowledge and skill levels to learn about new ideas and situations is a mandatory step outside of your comfort zone. You are expected to be problem-solvers, to be responsive, to be fair, to work hard, and to be knowledgeable about the activities of your board or commission. You are also expected to know and follow state law and regulation, acting in the best interests of the people of the State of Alaska.

The purpose of this orientation is to provide newly-appointed board and commission members with information that makes the transition from state resident to state board or commission member a rewarding experience. Please ask questions and let me or division staff know when you require assistance. We are partners in accomplishing this mission, and we look forward to working together.



Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor  
Alaska Department of Commerce Community, and Economic Development

## II. Roles and Responsibilities

Serving as a government regulator is unlike any other board position you may have held or heard about. This section describes the authority of regulatory boards and commissions, as well as the purpose and duties of board and commission members. It also discusses the board and commission members' roles in the State of Alaska system and in upholding public interest under the guidelines of state statutes.

### Purpose and Authority of Regulatory Boards and Commissions

The chief purpose of boards and commissions is to protect the public's health and safety and assure the competency of those providing the services regulated. This purpose is upheld across various statutes pertaining to professional licensing, as well as in Alaska case law. We refer to this as *servicing in the public interest*.

The authority of state boards and commissions is tied to the powers afforded by the legislature. All professional licensing boards and commissions have authority from the state as found in Title 8 of Alaska Statute. The authority of the different boards and commissions is limited and spelled out in two primary locations: Chapter 1 of Title 8 (referred to as AS 08.01 or Centralized Licensing) and in each chapter within Title 8 that pertains to the profession(s) regulated by a particular board. Boards and commissions are granted certain powers, which may differ according to statute. While statutes authorize certain powers, they also limit the activity of the board to what is allowed by law.

Based on the foundation of these statutes, professional licensing boards and commissions have the authority to perform a few key duties which they all have in common:

- **Adopt regulations to clarify statute and further define the requirements of the licensing program and its licensees.** Regulations have the effect of law; however, they clarify, define, and implement statutes to which they are subordinate. Boards and commissions are required to follow the public process and carefully consider all draft regulations before adoption.
- **Evaluate applications and issue licenses to qualified individuals.**
- **Take action on licenses issued by the board, up to and including revocation.**
- **Interpret scope of practice within the boundaries of state statute.**

Boards can adopt specific procedures in partnership with the division, which may also establish processes as the legal administrator of these programs. Boards and the division, with the assistance of attorneys assigned by the Department of Law, may evaluate all processes, regulations, and statutes to determine whether they best serve the public interest.

### Duties of the Boards and Commissions

State statute spells out the duties for which each board and commission is responsible. Below is a list of all licensing programs managed by the division and links to their individual statutory authority (AS 08.01.010)

Board of Public Accountancy ([AS 08.04.010](#));  
regulation of acupuncturists under [AS 08.06](#);  
State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors ([AS 08.48.011](#));  
Athletic Commission ([AS 05.05](#) and [AS 05.10](#));  
regulation of athletic trainers under [AS 08.07](#);  
regulation of audiologists and speech-language pathologists under [AS 08.11](#);  
Board of Barbers and Hairdressers ([AS 08.13.010](#));

regulation of behavior analysts under [AS 08.15](#);  
Big Game Commercial Services Board ([AS 08.54.591](#));  
regulation of business licenses under [AS 43.70](#);  
Board of Chiropractic Examiners ([AS 08.20.010](#));  
regulation of collection agencies under [AS 08.24](#);  
regulation of concert promoters under [AS 08.92](#);  
regulation of construction contractors and home inspectors under [AS 08.18](#);  
Board of Dental Examiners ([AS 08.36.010](#) and [AS 08.32.010](#));  
regulation of dietitians and nutritionists under [AS 08.38](#);  
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives ([AS 08.65.010](#));  
regulation of dispensing opticians under [AS 08.71](#);  
regulation of electrical and mechanical administrators under [AS 08.40](#);  
regulation of agencies that perform euthanasia services under [AS 08.02.050](#);  
regulation of professional geologists under [AS 08.02.060](#);  
regulation of private professional guardians and private professional conservators ([AS 08.26](#));  
regulation of hearing aid dealers under [AS 08.55](#);  
Board of Marine Pilots ([AS 08.62.010](#));  
Board of Marital and Family Therapy ([AS 08.63.010](#));  
Board of Massage Therapists ([AS 08.61.010](#));  
State Medical Board ([AS 08.64.010](#));  
regulation of morticians under [AS 08.42](#);  
regulation of the practice of naturopathy under [AS 08.45](#);  
Board of Nursing ([AS 08.68.010](#));  
regulation of nursing home administrators under [AS 08.70](#);  
Board of Examiners in Optometry ([AS 08.72.010](#));  
regulation of pawnbrokers ([AS 08.76.100](#) - 08.76.590);  
Board of Pharmacy ([AS 08.80.010](#));  
State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board ([AS 08.84.010](#));  
Board of Professional Counselors ([AS 08.29.010](#));  
Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners ([AS 08.86.010](#));  
Real Estate Commission ([AS 08.88.011](#));  
Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers ([AS 08.87.010](#));  
Board of Social Work Examiners ([AS 08.95.010](#));  
Board of Veterinary Examiners ([AS 08.98.010](#)).

### **Administrative Duties of Boards**

All professional licensing boards and commissions have specific responsibilities to administer their programs in partnership with the division. In addition to the duties required by its chapter, Centralized Statutes apply to each board. Under this set of laws located in [AS 08.01](#), each board must provide for the following activities:

- (1) take minutes and records of all proceedings;
- (2) hold a minimum of one meeting each year;
- (3) hold at least one examination each year;
- (4) request, through the department, investigation of violations of its laws and regulations;
- (5) prepare and grade board examinations;
- (6) set minimum qualifications for applicants for examination and license and may establish a waiver of continuing education requirements for renewal of a license for the period in which a licensee is engaged in active duty military service as described under AS 08.01.100 (f);
- (7) forward a draft of the minutes of proceedings to the department within 20 days after the proceedings;
- (8) forward results of board examinations to the department within 20 days after the examination is given;

- (9) notify the department of meeting dates and agenda items at least 15 days before meetings and other proceedings are held;
- (10) submit before the end of the fiscal year an annual performance report to the department stating the board's accomplishments, activities, and needs. (AS 08.01.070)

### **Disciplinary Powers of Boards**

Boards have specific disciplinary powers under Centralized Statutes and their own chapters, which are executed in partnership with the division's Investigative Unit. This common authority may be superseded by additional authority found in each program's own chapter of Title 8. For example, AS 08.01.075(a)(8) allows each board the ability to issue a fine up to \$5,000. Some boards, however, have specific authority to issue fines that are well above this amount.

- (a) A board may take the following disciplinary actions, singly or in combination:
  - (1) permanently revoke a license;
  - (2) suspend a license for a specified period;
  - (3) censure or reprimand a licensee;
  - (4) impose limitations or conditions on the professional practice of a licensee;
  - (5) require a licensee to submit to peer review;
  - (6) impose requirements for remedial professional education to correct deficiencies in the education, training, and skill of the licensee;
  - (7) impose probation requiring a licensee to report regularly to the board on matters related to the grounds for probation;
  - (8) impose a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000.
  
- (b) A board may withdraw probationary status if the deficiencies that required the sanction are remedied.
  
- (c) A board may summarily suspend a licensee from the practice of the profession before a final hearing is held or during an appeal if the board finds that the licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety. A person is entitled to a hearing conducted by the office of administrative hearings (AS 44.64.010) to appeal the summary suspension within seven days after the order of suspension is issued. A person may appeal an adverse decision of the board on an appeal of a summary suspension to a court of competent jurisdiction.
  
- (d) A board may reinstate a suspended or revoked license if, after a hearing, the board finds that the applicant is able to practice the profession with skill and safety.
  
- (e) A board may accept the voluntary surrender of a license. A license may not be returned unless the board determines that the licensee is competent to resume practice and the licensee pays the appropriate renewal fee.
  
- (f) A board shall seek consistency in the application of disciplinary sanctions. A board shall explain a significant departure from prior decisions involving similar facts in the order imposing the sanction. (AS 08.01.075)

In addition to those listed in the statutes, a board or commission may:

- Establish meeting procedures and determine board or commission members' leadership roles.
- Maintain awareness of licensing program revenues and expenditures.
- Hear and evaluate public testimony.

One of the primary responsibilities of a board or commission is adopting and adhering to regulations pertaining to the scope of authority granted to that body in statute. Centralized Regulations in 12 AAC 02 pertain to all professions governed by Title 8, and each board has its own regulatory authority within Title 12 of the Alaska Administrative Code. Boards and Commissions are also bound to laws pertaining to all state entities, including the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions, and the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62).

### Responsibilities of Board and Commission Members

Boards and commissions are bodies whose members are appointed by the Governor of Alaska through the Office of Boards and Commissions and approved by the Alaska State Legislature through a confirmation process. Doing Alaska's boards and commissions' business (in effect, the public's business) is a group activity that requires patience, vision, cooperation, and compromise. While you may be a member of your board's profession, you are not serving to promote your profession. Rather, as a member of a regulatory board, you have responsibilities to several groups:

- **To the general public.** Consumers expect that licensees will be qualified to perform properly and safely. They expect oversight to ensure qualifications for licensure and practice meet acceptable standards. They expect licensees to be accountable to the law. The public has a right to know what's going on within the board.
- **To potential licensees.** A person who wishes to earn a living in a regulated profession should be able to demonstrate competency through a reasonable and transparent process. Every applicant should have easy access to information about entering the profession, including testing and transferring a license to between states.
- **To other board members.** Board and commission members should listen to their fellow board members and consider one another's views and contributions. All board members are responsible for developing good policy and procedures and contributing to the effective and efficient operation of the board.
- **To licensees.** A licensed professional has an expectation that regulators will determine matters fairly and impartially and to be responsive to questions and concerns raised by licensees.

**The primary objectives of regulatory boards are to ensure professional competency and the health and safety of the public.** Boards often have positions dedicated to members from specific backgrounds; this is intended to bring a broad range of perspective to the boards, including the perspective of consumers, people who have no affiliation with the regulated profession, and people who practice within the regulated profession. Together, the members of a regulatory board serve the public's interest.

### What Does It Take to Successfully Serve on a Regulatory Board?

1. **A demonstrated interest in public service.** Participating on a regulatory board is about the public, not self-interest or special interests.

2. **Common sense and a willingness to ask questions.** Do the policies, procedures, and decisions of the board seem sensible? Are they regularly reviewed and updated? Do you have the information needed to make sound decisions? Are you clear on your roles and the roles of your partners in regulating the profession? If not, say so and ask for clarification. You are responsible for what goes on with the board. If you are not sure about something and you do not ask, the board may miss an opportunity to avoid or correct a problem.
3. **A commitment to participate.** Consistent attendance at meetings, responsiveness to correspondence, and engagement with voting is essential to keeping informed about what is going on and to providing direction and support. An individual who accepts an appointment to a board and does not take seriously the duty to participate regularly and actively does a disservice to the board and to the public they are supposed to represent.
4. **Healthy assertiveness.** Respect your own rights and needs as well as those of others by maintaining boundaries and seeking information in a healthy, professional manner.
5. **Understanding of the board structure and resources.** Find out how the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, the Department of Law, and the Office of Administrative Hearings operate in relation to your board.

Effective board members have these characteristics in common:

1. Able to work with a group to make decisions
2. Understand and follow democratic processes
3. Willing to devote time and effort to the work of the board
4. Work to find alternative solutions to problems whenever necessary
5. Use good communication skills
6. Recognize that the goal of the board is the service and protection of the public
7. Aware that authority is granted by the law to the board as a whole, not to any member individually, and can only be used in open meeting or executive session by vote of the majority of board members
8. Avoid becoming involved in the daily functions of staff
9. Delay judgement until adequate evidence is in and has been fully discussed
10. Separate personal feelings toward others from the decisionmaking process

When appointed to a regulatory board, the member agrees to follow a high code of conduct that is grounded in state law. This means giving up some freedoms in order to protect other rights and processes.

- All inquiries regarding matters within the board's jurisdiction should be directed to the board office so that they can be brought to the attention of the board at a duly-constituted meeting. Board members may not take action on behalf of the board outside this venue.
- Certain information is protected by law as “confidential and deliberative.” These details of board activity should not be released by a board member unless and until they become part of the public record. Any disclosure of such information should be made only after consultation with legal counsel.
- Board members are prohibited from conducting private meetings pertaining to board business outside of full, publicly noticed board meetings.
- Special care should be taken when considering disciplinary matters, as important privacy rights may be implicated, in addition to the board’s statute, regulations, and policies.
- Board members should remember that the public may see them as representatives of the board

even when they are outside of a board meeting setting. When board members appear at industry or professional gatherings, they should make it clear that they are acting as private citizens and not speaking for the board, unless specifically authorized by the board.

- Board members should follow established policy and protocol within their board structure, including communicating through their chair and board staff.

### **What is the Purpose of Appointing Public Members to Licensing Boards?**

The public members on a licensing board are important to ensure the public good is being served. The public member has a special role to express and be watchful of the public interest—not the interest of the profession or occupation. Nearly every jurisdiction's law mandating public members on boards states that a public member shall have no association or relationship with the profession or with a member of the regulated profession. Public members are not expected to be, indeed are not supposed to be, technically expert or experienced in the licensed occupation.

The importance of public members on regulatory boards was expanded by the United States Supreme Court's 2015 decision in [North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission](#). The unique and important role of the public member mitigates the potential anticompetitive effects of a board's actions, which may happen where the board is dominated by "active market participants"—those whom the board itself is regulating.

Well-informed and engaged public members bring several advantages to regulation:

1. Reduce the potential for board decisions which favor the industry over the public
2. Reduce the potential for decisions which illegitimately favor one faction of an industry over another
3. Encourage public participation in government decisionmaking
4. Augment public confidence and trust in government by facilitating communication of consumer issues to the board
5. Expand the range of skills, talent, training, and perspectives available for higher quality and more creative board action
6. Raise the level of board discussion to scrutinize assumptions in any industry
7. Strengthen the board's credibility in its decisionmaking and advocacy

Public members must take care to avoid common pitfalls and may, in fact, have to work harder than the board's industry members to overcome these disadvantages:

1. Public members may be intimidated by industry members' experience in the field.
2. Public members may impede board activity if they do not demonstrate a reasonable working knowledge of technical issues facing the board.

### **Participate in All Issues**

When candidates are appointed to specific boards or commissions, they must become knowledgeable and participate or they are certain to become frustrated and ineffective. Preparation ahead of meetings, completing assigned tasks, and engaging in discussion are crucial to effective leadership. Board and commission members must both respond to issues, as well as initiate topics for board action or evaluation.

### **Focus on Policy, Not Politics**

Policymaking is an important board activity. Policies help guide the board's approach, generally, and can

be very helpful in focusing the board's analysis of complex issues. A board's policies must always serve the board's work for the public; they must not be tied to special or political interests.

### Discussion and Debate Leads to Growth

No one expects board and commission members to agree on everything. In fact, when disagreement exists, it means that different viewpoints are being considered before a decision is made. Looking at different perspectives of board members and the public is an important part of the decisionmaking process and ensures that the interests of all concerned are given due diligence. Board members bring varying perspectives and experiences that are extremely valuable to sound decisionmaking. Members who are unwilling to listen to the points of others on the board or who dominate conversations reduce the board's effectiveness, so stretching in an interpersonal capacity is essential.

### Address Issues within the Board or Commission's Scope of Authority

Some issues may be important to the state and to board or commission members but may not be within the board or commission's power or authority to manage. An issue, for example, may be important to the industry or association pertaining to a licensed profession but not within a board or commission's statutory authority. Consequently, boards and commissions may adopt resolutions stating the board or commission's opinion and send the resolution to state and federal agencies or it may directly address State or Federal officials on these concerns. Board and commission members should avoid being diverted from their mission by competing interests from industry associations or issues outside the board or commission's scope of authority, as dictated by statute.

The following recommendations are addressed to board and commission members to help you carry forward your mission effectively:

- 1. Read your meeting materials:** Be informed before meetings. Board and commission members usually receive meeting materials via OnBoard (the division's board management software) at least two weeks before the meeting. Read them and be ready to discuss the issues at the meeting. Information provided in the packet can help you better understand the issues and participate in more detailed discussion during the meeting.
- 2. Become familiar with the board or commission's knowledge base and history:** Take time to read any existing documents, such as board meeting minutes or FAQs, pertaining to the issues at hand.
- 3. Know the laws regulating the board or commission:** Know the statutes, regulations, and scope of authority pertaining to the board or commission you have been appointed to, as well as those centralized for all CBPL regulatory bodies and requirements (such as budget, travel, or ethics) pertaining to any state board or commission.
- 4. Take the time to make a difference:** The time you actually spend at meetings is only a small part of the time it takes to be an effective board or commission member. Be prepared to spend a fair amount of time preparing for meetings, staying informed, serving on subcommittees or special projects, and being actively involved as a board or commission member.
- 5. Learn all sides of an issue before forming an opinion:** A board or commission member makes better-informed decisions or opinions when he or she learns all sides of an issue. If a member takes the position that he or she already knows everything about an issue, he or she may miss an opportunity to learn something important to the debate.

6. **Take part in discussion and debate:** As a rule, the quality of the board and commission decisionmaking process is improved when all members contribute to the discussion. Participation does not ensure that the outcome will be exactly what you want, but it will ensure that your opinions have been considered.
7. **Ask questions:** If you have a question about a subject, other members probably do as well. If you don't know something, the best way to learn about it is by asking questions.
8. **Seek solutions:** Be a problem-solver. Contribute to debate in a way that will lead to solutions and not merely add to the difficulty or complexity of a situation. When faced with a challenge, look for ways it can be done.
9. **Don't be shy:** Nobody else is going to speak up for you. Your idea may be the one that will lead to an answer or a solution, so speak up when you have something to say.
10. **Be inquisitive:** Dig into a matter and be assertive to get the information you need. The most productive environment for decisionmaking respects all opinions and everyone's right to express them. Relationships should be polite and professional. Board and commission members are state leaders who can set an example for others to follow.
11. **Share information:** If you know something about a proposal before the board or commission that other members may not be aware of, share it. The decisionmaking process will benefit when board and commission members share important information with the entire group. This encouragement does not extend to disciplinary or other situations that may result in ex parte communication by the board.
12. **Put in extra effort:** Volunteer to serve on committees and working groups and perform special assignments. Some boards are affiliated with national organizations that the state relies on for examination writing and applicant qualification. Getting involved with the national organizations strengthens your knowledge and effectiveness on your board. Your expertise and perspective are important to the success of the board.

## Board and Commission Relationships

Members of boards and commissions interact with many different individuals and groups of people. This section addresses the business nature of these relationships.

### Relationship with the Chairperson

It is important that all members of the board or commission works together to ensure the competency of licensed professionals and the health and safety of the public. The board chair is elected by the members of the board unless appointed by the governor. The chair has a unique opportunity to ensure the responsibilities of the board are being met by setting appropriate agendas, ensuring meetings operate smoothly and that all resources are present, ensures members are engaged and educated on matters facing the board, and speak on behalf of the board when authorized. The chair leads the board in project a specific image to the public, resolving conflict, managing progress on issues, and fostering healthy relationships among board members, industry, and licensees. The board chair should strive to guide the board to:

- Project a positive image as the state's regulator of a given profession.
- Make best use of the board or commission's time.
- Promote teamwork among its members, the division, and the public.
- Facilitate progress on matters facing the board.

- Involve the whole board or commission in the decisionmaking process.

### Clarifying Roles of Boards and Staff

The roles of the board, staff, the Division, and the Department are generally set forth in Alaska Statute under AS 08.01. Each has an important part in the administrative and investigative functions of the state’s regulatory programs. However, as the governance partner, the board is primarily concerned with the “what” and “why” and management is focused on the “how.”

Clarifying these roles:

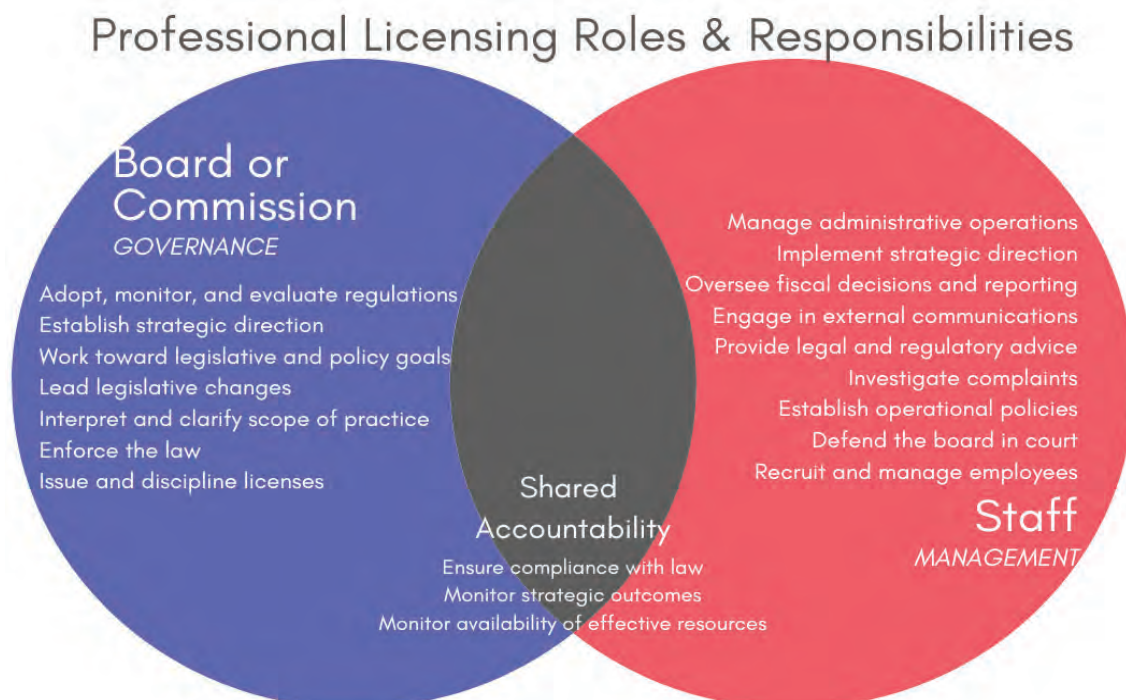
- Ensures accountability
- Facilitates a good working relationship
- Enhances the productivity and effectiveness of both board and staff
- Reduces redundancy and waste of time or resources
- Must be supported by both the board and staff

### The Board’s Governance Role

Boards have a governance role in the regulation of licensed professions. To successfully focus on their own role, boards must take care to separate themselves from the day-to-day staff/management responsibilities by asking:

- Is it a matter of policy?
- Does it affect board statutes, regulations, or bylaws (if authorized)?
- Is it statutorily the board’s decision?
- Does it need high-level scrutiny or support?
- Does it pertain to the “what” and “why” of the mission?

If “yes,” then it’s likely a board responsibility.



## The Staff's Management Role

A board or commission's staff may include an executive administrator, a licensing examiner, and specialized staff. The staff's role in regulation is to facilitate the mission of the board through strategic use of resources allocated by the board or provided for in legislation or regulation. It is the staff's job to work with the chair to provide the board or commission with the facts and information needed to make a decision. An examiner may advise the board on procedural issues and other topics, serving as a "bridge" to the division. An executive administrator or program coordinator may have a more fluid role and provide input on board policy and regulations as requested by the board.

While staff may offer a recommendation for board action, the board should not expect that person to make decisions that the board or commission is appointed to make. Such expectation for decisionmaking can place a staff member in the awkward position of substituting his or her judgment for the collective judgment of the board or commission. This expectation is unfair to the staff person and can make him or her a scapegoat for mistakes. It may also be a violation of law or the staff's position description or employment bargaining agreement.

Board and commission instructions to staff should go through the chairperson by way of a formal motion. This provides clarity to the division when resources are expended. It helps division management direct staff workloads and provides for more effective management of program funds. Additionally, individual board and commission members should not give instructions to the staff without the knowledge or consent of the chair, because one member's viewpoint or request may not represent the shared viewpoint or position of the full board or commission. All staff work for the division. No professional licensing board employs staff.

The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing provides many staff members with varying types of expertise to aid the work of the board or commission:

**Specialized staff:** The Investigators, Regulations Specialist, Paralegal, and Publications Specialist provide resources to boards and commissions as pertains to their fields. These staff members may be requested to present fiscal or enforcement information at board meetings, assist with drafting of regulations, facilitate continuing education audits, or perfect public documents, among other services. These staff members work daily behind the scenes to support this focused administrative work of the boards and the division and report to division executive management.

**Licensing Examiner:** The Occupational Licensing Examiner is primarily responsible for screening and issuing licenses per board or commission statutes and regulations. In many cases, the examiner helps administer the meeting, take notes, and maintain the day-to-day office activities of the board or commission. The examiner may staff multiple licensing programs and assist various boards and commissions. The examiner is expected to have a thorough understanding of the statutes and regulations that apply to their programs and to seek assistance when problems or questions arise.

**Program Coordinator 1 and 2:** Examiners are typically supervised by a Program Coordinator 1 and 2 who are responsible for the accuracy and consistency of the examiner's work. The supervisors are responsible for training and monitoring licensing examiners under his or her purview and directs their workflow. The supervisor must have a thorough knowledge of the statutes, regulations, and procedures

of all programs for which he or she is responsible. The Program Coordinator may have primary responsibility for management of all board functions under their purview.

**Executive Administrator:** The Executive Administrator (also Marine Pilot Coordinator) manages the affairs of one board or commission. The “exec” is appointed by the governor and is expected to engage the board or commission at a more complex level than the examiner. The executive receives additional program- or content-related assignments from the board as permitted by statute or regulation, represents the board or commission at professional meetings, cultivates a body of knowledge about the workings of the profession to better advise the board, and performs other duties as outlined in statutes and regulations.

**Administrative Operations Manager:** The Administrative Operations Manager of the division oversees all administrative and accounting functions. This position is responsible for providing the quarterly Schedules of Revenues and Expenditures to each board and collaborates with the rest of the division’s executive team to make final budgetary and administrative decisions for the division and its programs. This position is also responsible for the Corporations and Business Licensing section of the division. The Administrative Officer reports to the Division Director.

**Deputy Director:** This position manages the functions and staff of all licensing sections within professional licensing. The manager is responsible for the “big picture” systems required to plan, organize, direct, and coordinate board and division activities and resources as they pertain to all professional licensing activities. Program Coordinators 2 and Executive Administrators report to the Deputy Director, who reports to the Division Director.

**Division Director:** The director is the principal executive officer of the entire division, including Professional Licensing, Corporations and Business Licensing, Administration, and Investigations. The director bears substantial responsibility for the determination of policy and for the way in which policies are carried out. The Division Director reports to the department’s Deputy Commissioner.

The department also supports the work of boards and commissions through the **Boards and Regulations Advisor**. This position was created to develop training materials, offer guidance, facilitate regulatory review and decisionmaking, intervene when assistance is needed, and serve as liaison with the governor’s office for all boards, councils, and commissions in the department.

### III. Executive Branch Ethics

Service on a state board or commission is a public trust and members are expected to conduct the public's business in a way that preserves the integrity of the governmental process and avoids conflicts of interest. The Ethics Act (AS 39.52) doesn't forbid public officers from having opinions, interests, or professional pursuits outside of their service on boards or commissions, but it does require that members disclose certain matters so a determination can be made about whether they constitute a conflict of interest.

#### Compliance with the Executive Branch Ethics Act

All board and commission members and staff should be familiar with the procedures outlined below. The Act covers a board, commission, authority, or board of directors of a public or quasi-public corporation, established by statute in the executive branch of state government. Additional information is available from the Alaska Department of Law at <http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html>. Much of the information in this section of the manual is taken directly from this site.

#### *Misuse of Official Position (AS 39.52.120)*

Members of boards or commissions may not use their positions for personal gain or to give an unwarranted benefit or treatment to any person. For example, members may not:

- use their official positions to secure employment or contracts;
- accept compensation from anyone other than the State for performing official duties;
- use State time, equipment, property or facilities for their own personal or financial benefit or for partisan political purposes;
- take or withhold official action on a matter in which they or an immediate family member have a personal or financial interest;
- coerce subordinates for his/her personal or financial benefit, or
- attempt to influence the outcome of an administrative hearing by privately contacting the hearing officer.



Alice knew that a proposal that was before the board would harm Alice's business partner. Instead of publicly disclosing the matter and requesting recusal, Alice engaged in discussions about the proposal and voted on the proposal.



Jack serves on a board that regulates parts of the building construction industry. Wearing a nametag that identifies him as a member of the industry board, Jack goes to a contractors' trade show and sets up a booth for his consulting business, called "Building a Future in Alaska."

#### *Improper Gifts (AS 39.52.130)*

A board or commission member may not solicit or accept a gift if it could reasonably be inferred that the gift is intended to influence the member's action or judgment. "Gifts" include money, items of value, services, loans, travel, entertainment, hospitality, and employment. The division has interpreted this guidance narrowly to ensure transparency in awareness and reporting.

Travel includes any expense paid directly to the board member in conjunction with a trip connected to the member's position on the board. This type of trip must be approved through the division and all reimbursements made through the CBPL Travel Desk to avoid violating the state's rules regarding travel.

(See section on travel.) All gifts from registered lobbyists are presumed to be improper unless the giver is an immediate family member of the person receiving the gift. This restriction on gifts does not apply to lawful campaign contributions.

A gift worth more than \$150 to a board or commission member or the member's family must be reported within 30 days if:

- the board member can take official action that can affect the giver, or
- the gift is given to the board member because he or she is on a state board or commission.

The receipt of a gift worth less than \$150 may be prohibited if it could reasonably be inferred that the gift is intended to influence the board member's action or judgment. Receipt of such a gift should be disclosed.

Any gift received from another government, regardless of value, must be reported; the board or commission member will be advised as to the disposition of this gift.

A form for reporting gifts is available at [law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html](http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html) or from the board or commission staff.

The commission is reviewing Roy's proposal for an expansion of his business. Roy invites all the board members out to dinner at an expensive restaurant. He says it will be okay since he isn't excluding any of the members.

Sam buys a holiday gift every year for Jody. Jody was recently appointed to a board, but Sam has no business that is up before the board.

Margie is a board member and decides to take a last-minute trip to a national conference for state board members in her industry. She is directly reimbursed by the national association for her meals, airfare, and rental car.

### ***Improper Use or Disclosure of Information (AS 39.52.140)***

No former or current member of a board or commission may use or disclose any information acquired through official duties if that use or disclosure could result in a financial or personal benefit to the board member (or a family member) unless that information has already been disseminated to the public.

Sheila has been on the licensing board for several years. She feels she has learned a great deal of general information about how to launch a successful business venture. So, she sets up her own company helping small businesses get started and does well. She is careful not to assist in completing license applications that will be evaluated by the board on which she serves.

Gordon is a tattoo artist and the reviewing board member for an investigation of serious potential violations of health and safety issues by a licensed shop owner. Before the board votes on the matter, he tells several people who are thinking of getting a tattoo there about the confidential matter and encourages them to come to his shop instead.

### ***Improper Influence in State Grants, Contracts, Leases or Loans (AS 39.52.150)***

A board member who can affect the award or administration of a State grant, contract, lease, or loan may not apply for, or have an interest in that State grant, contract, lease, or loan. This prohibition also applies to the board member's immediate family.

A board member (or a family member) may apply for or be a party to a *competitively solicited* State grant, contract or lease, if the board member does not serve in the same administrative unit awarding or administering the grant, contract, or lease *and* so long as the board member does not take official action in the award or administration of the grant, contract, or lease.

A board member (or a family member) may apply for and receive a State loan that is generally available to the public and has fixed eligibility standards, so long as the board member does not take (or withhold) official action affecting the award or administration of the loan.

Board members must report to the board chair any personal or financial interest (or that of a family member) in a State grant, contract, lease or loan that is awarded or administered by the agency the board member serves. A form for this purpose is available at [law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html](http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html) or from the board or commission staff.

John sits on a board that awards state grants. John hasn't seen his daughter for nearly ten years, but he figures that it doesn't matter when her grant application comes up before the board; he votes on the grant to his daughter, without disclosing the relationship to the board. (While voting for the grant looks worse than voting against the grant, the Ethics Act prohibits deliberating or voting on the issue regardless of what position the board member takes.)

The board wants to contract out for an analysis of the board's decisions over the last ten years. Kim bids on the contract since she has been on the board for ten years and feels she could do a good job.

### ***Improper Representation (AS 39.52.160)***

A non-salaried board or commission member may represent, advise, or assist in matters in which the member has an interest that is regulated by the member's own board or commission, if the member acts in accordance with AS 39.52.220 by disclosing the involvement in writing and on the public record, and refrains from all participation and voting on the matter. This section does not allow a board member to engage in any conduct that would violate a different section of the Ethics Act. So, the member must disclose the fact of the member's involvement in the regulated matter and abide by the board or commission's finding as to the existence of a conflict of interest.

Delores has always coordinated continuing education opportunities for the physicians in her practice. After Delores is appointed to the State Medical Board, she discloses this role to the board and continues to coordinate these classes in her capacity as a private individual, not a board member.

### ***Restriction on Employment after Leaving State Service (AS 39.52.180)***

For two years after leaving a board, a former board member may not work on any matter on which the former member had personally and substantially participated while on the board. This prohibition applies to cases, proceedings, applications, contracts, and similar matters.

Former members of the governing boards of public corporations and former members of boards and commissions that have regulation-adoption authority, except those covered by the centralized licensing provisions of AS 08.01, may not lobby for pay for one year.

This section does not prohibit a State agency from contracting directly with a former board member. With the approval of the Attorney General, the board chair may waive this prohibition if a determination is made that the public interest is not jeopardized.

The board has arranged for an extensive study of the effects of the department's programs. Andy, a board member, did most of the liaison work with the contractor selected by the board, including some negotiations about the scope of the study. Andy quits the board and goes to work for the contractor, working on the study of the effects of the department's programs.

Andy takes the job, but he specifies that he will have to work on another project.

Patrice, a licensed health care provider who is about to leave board service after eight years, is asked by a non-profit organization to work as their government relations director, which will require her to register as a lobbyist. She starts work for the organization in this capacity one week after her term on the board ends.

Patrice accepts a clinical position with the non-profit organization instead.

### ***Aiding a Violation Prohibited (AS 39.52.190)***

Aiding another public officer to violate this chapter is prohibited.

### ***Agency Policies (AS 39.52.920)***

Subject to the Attorney General's review, a board may adopt additional written policies further limiting personal or financial interests of board members.

### ***Disclosure Procedures (AS 39.52.220-250)***

All board and commission members and staff should be familiar with the Executive Branch Ethics Act procedures outlined below.

### ***Who Is My Designated Ethics Supervisor (DES)?***

Every board or commission subject to the Ethics Act has several ethics supervisors designated by statute. The Act covers a board, commission, authority, or board of directors of a public or quasi-public corporation, established by statute in the executive branch of state government.

- The chair serves as DES for board or commission members.
- The chair serves as DES for the executive director. This does not apply to professional licensing boards and commissions, whose staff are employees for the Department, not the board.
- The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development has assigned a Special Assistant to serve as DES for staff.
- The governor is the DES for a chair. The governor has delegated the DES responsibility to the Director of Administrative Services in the Office of Governor.

### ***What Do I Have to Disclose?***

The Ethics Act requires members of boards and commissions to disclose:

- Any matter that is a potential conflict of interest with actions that the member may take when serving on the board or commission.
- Any circumstance that may result in a violation of the Ethics Act.
- Any personal or financial interest (or that of an immediate family member) in a state grant, contract, lease, or loan that is awarded or administered by the member's board or commission.
- The receipt of certain gifts.

The staff of a board or commission, as state employees, must also disclose:

- Compensated outside employment or services.
- Volunteer service, if any compensation, including travel and meals, is paid or there is a potential conflict with state duties.

For more information regarding the types of matters that may result in violations of the Ethics Act, board or commission members should refer to the guide, *"Ethics Information for Members of Boards and Commissions."* Staff should refer to the guide, *Ethics Information for Public Employees."*

Both guides and disclosure forms may be found on the Department of Law's ethics website:

<http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html>.

#### ***How Do I Avoid Violations of the Ethics Act?***

- When in doubt, disclose and seek advice from division staff or the department Boards and Regulations Advisor.
- Make timely disclosures.
- Follow required procedures.
- Provide all information necessary to a correct evaluation of the matter. You may supplement the disclosure form with other written explanation as necessary. Your signature on a disclosure certifies that, to the best of your knowledge, the statements made are true, correct and complete. False statements are punishable.
- Follow the advice of your DES.

#### ***What Are The Disclosure Procedures for Board and Commission Members?***

The procedural requirements for disclosures by members are set out in AS 39.52.220 and 9 AAC 52.120. One goal of these provisions is to help members avoid violations of the Ethics Act. The procedures provide the opportunity for members to seek review of matters in advance of taking action to ensure that actions taken will be consistent with the Act.

#### ***Procedures for Declaring Actual or Potential Conflicts***

Members must declare potential conflicts and other matters that may violate the Ethics Act in writing to the chair. Public disclosure may take the place of a written disclosure if the meeting is recorded, a tape or transcript of the meeting is preserved, and there is a method for identifying the declaration in the record.

- Notice of Violation or Request for Determination forms should be filed with the Designated Ethics Supervisor (the board chair) as soon as known.
- If a determination on whether a conflict exists on a matter pending before the board, it is ideal for the conflict to be submitted to the chair with enough time for the determination to be made—usually several weeks.
- If the matter is before the board before a determination has been made, the member must

refrain from voting, deliberations or other participation on it. In most, but not all, situations, refraining from participation ensures that a violation of the Ethics Act does not occur. Abstention does not cure a conflict with respect to a significant direct personal or financial interest in a state grant, contract, lease, or loan because the Ethics Act prohibition applies whether or not the public officer actually takes official action.

- If a member is uncertain whether participation would result in a violation of the Act, the member should disclose the circumstances and seek a determination from the chair before the meeting.

*Confidential disclosure in advance of public meeting.* Potential conflicts may be partially addressed in advance of a board or commission's public meeting.

- A member identifying a conflict or potential conflict may submit a Notice of Potential Violation to the chair, as DES, in advance of the public meeting.
- This written disclosure is considered confidential. No one may discuss or disclose this information.
- The chair may contact staff to seek advice from the Attorney General. Staff and the AAG will walk the chair through the process.
- The chair makes a written determination, also confidential, whether the disclosed matter represents a conflict that will result in a violation of the Ethics Act if the member participates in official action addressing the matter. The chair must give a copy of the written determination to the disclosing member. There is a determination form available on the Department of Law's ethics web page. The ethics supervisor may also write a separate memorandum.
- If the chair determines that the member would violate the Ethics Act by taking official action, the chair directs the member to refrain from participating in the matter that is the subject of the disclosure.
- A general oral report of the notice of potential violation and the determination that the member must refrain from participating is put on the record at a public meeting. In this manner, a member's detailed personal and financial information may be protected from public disclosure.

*Determinations at the public meeting.* When a potential conflict is declared by a member for the public record, the following procedure must be followed:

- The member must declare she or he has a potential conflict regarding a matter before the board.
- The chair states his or her determination regarding whether the member may participate. This ruling must be consistent with Attorney General advice and statute/regulation.
- Any member may then object to the chair's determination.
- If an objection is made, the members present, excluding the member who made the disclosure, vote on the matter.
- Exception: A chair's determination that is made consistent with advice provided by the Attorney General may not be overruled.
- If the chair, or the members by majority vote, determines that a violation will exist if the disclosing member continues to participate, the member must refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in the matter. When a matter of particular sensitivity is raised and the ramifications of continuing without an advisory opinion from the Attorney General may affect the validity of the board or commission's action, the members should consider tabling the matter so that an opinion may be obtained.

*If the chair identifies a potential conflict of his or her own, the same procedures are followed. If*

possible, the chair should forward a confidential written notice of potential violation through staff to the Office of the Governor for a determination in advance of the board or commission meeting. If the declaration is first made at the public meeting during which the matter will be addressed, the members present, except for the chair, vote on the matter. If a majority determines that a violation of the Ethics Act will occur if the chair continues to participate, the chair shall refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in the matter. A written disclosure or copy of the public record regarding the oral disclosure should be forwarded by staff to the Office of the Governor for review by the chair's Designated Ethics Supervisor (DES).

### ***Procedures for Other Member Disclosures***

A member's interest in a state grant, contract, lease or loan and receipt of gifts are disclosed by filling out the appropriate disclosure form and submitting the form to the DES for approval. The disclosure forms are found on the Department of Law's ethics website: [law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html](http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics.html).

### ***How Are Third Party Reports of Potential Violations or Complaints Handled?***

Any person may report a potential violation of the Ethics Act by a board or commission member or its staff to the appropriate DES or file a complaint alleging actual violations with the Attorney General.

- Notices of potential violations and complaints must be submitted in writing and under oath.
- Notices of potential violations are investigated by the appropriate DES who makes a written determination whether a violation may exist. The DES provides a copy of the notice to the employee or board/commission member who is the subject of the notice and may seek input from the employee or board/commission member, his or her supervisor and others. The DES may seek advice from the Attorney General.
- A copy of the DES' written determination is provided to the subject employee or board/commission member and the complaining party. The DES submits a copy of both the notice and the determination to the Attorney General for review as part of the DES' quarterly report. If feasible, the DES shall reassign duties to cure a potential violation or direct divestiture or removal by the employee or board/commission member of the personal or financial interests giving rise to the potential violation.
- Complaints are addressed by the Attorney General under separate procedures outlined in the Ethics Act.
- These matters are confidential unless the subject waives confidentiality or the matter results in a public accusation.

### ***What Are the Procedures for Quarterly Reports?***

Generally, Designated Ethics Supervisors must submit copies of notices of potential violations received and the corresponding determinations to the Attorney General for review by the state ethics attorney as part of the quarterly report required by the Ethics Act. In this division, staff compile any disclosures received during a meeting or outside of a meeting via the chair, then forward them on a quarterly basis to the Division Director, who send them to the department DES.

If the state ethics attorney disagrees with a reported determination, the attorney will advise the DES of that finding. If the ethics attorney finds that there was a violation, the member who committed the violation is not liable if he or she fully disclosed all relevant facts reasonably necessary to the ethics supervisor's or commission's determination and acted consistent with the determination.

### ***How Does A DES or Board or Commission Get Ethics Advice?***

A DES or board or commission may make a written request to the Attorney General for an opinion regarding the application of the Ethics Act. In practice, the Attorney General, through the state ethics attorney, also provides advice by phone or e-mail to designated ethics supervisors, especially when time constraints prevent the preparation of timely written opinions.

- A request for advice and the advisory opinion are confidential.
- The ethics attorney endeavors to provide prompt assistance, although that may not always be possible.
- The DES must make his or her determination addressing the potential violation based on the opinion provided.

### ***Complaints, Hearings, and Enforcement (AS 39.52.310-370, AS 32.52.410-460)***

Any person may file a complaint with the Attorney General about the conduct of a current or former board member. Complaints must be written and signed under oath. The Attorney General may also initiate complaints from information provided by a board. A copy of the complaint will be sent to the board member who is the subject of the complaint and to the Personnel Board.

All complaints are reviewed by the Attorney General. If the Attorney General determines that the complaint does not warrant investigation, the complainant and the board member will be notified of the dismissal.

The Attorney General may refer a complaint to the board member's chair for resolution. After investigation, the Attorney General may dismiss a complaint for lack of probable cause to believe a violation occurred. The complainant and board member will be promptly notified of this decision.

Alternatively, if probable cause exists, the Attorney General may initiate a formal proceeding by serving the board or commission member with an accusation alleging a violation of the Ethics Act. An accusation may result in a hearing.

When the Personnel Board determines a board member has violated the Ethics Act, the member must refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in the matter. The Personnel Board may order restitution and may recommend that the board member be removed from the board or commission. If a recommendation of removal is made, the appointing authority will immediately remove the member. If the Personnel Board finds that a former board member violated the Ethics Act, the Personnel Board will issue a public statement about the case and will ask the Attorney General to pursue appropriate additional legal remedies.

### ***Conflict of Interest and Ex Parte Communication***

Conflicts outside of the Executive Branch Ethics Act may arise due to improper communication with a stakeholder. "Improper communication" can be any communication with an interested party where the communication is about something on which the board has authority to act, and which comes outside of a publicly-noticed meeting. A familiar example is the contact that a member of a jury could have with people or even news stories that could bias their opinion unfairly. Sometimes it is impossible for juries in high-profile cases to avoid hearing information that is inadmissible in court, so they are sequestered in hotel rooms with no television or public contact.

Board and commission members are not likely to be treated to such extremes, but they must take care not to discuss matters with others or among each other outside of appropriate meeting channels.

### ***Ex-Parte Contact***

The foundation of due process is that each side in a dispute has the opportunity to be heard. If one side has the opportunity to make an argument, the other side must have the opportunity to respond. It is sometimes tempting for an applicant, licensee, or attorney to attempt to circumvent the usual application decisionmaking procedures, to seek information on a pending application, to discuss a pending disciplinary action, or to seek to influence an individual's decision by directly contacting one of the board members. Such communications are called "ex parte" communications.

**Ex parte communications are improper. The result of such a communication is that the board member so contacted may be unable to discuss, participate in, or vote on the application or disciplinary action.**

The risk to the applicant or licensee who attempts such communication is that a board member who might have been favorably disposed to their license application or disciplinary case may not be able to participate in the decision or vote.

**Ex parte communication must be disclosed.** Should any individual attempt to contact you to discuss a license application or disciplinary case, please refer them to a staff member (licensing examiner, investigator, or executive administrator) for response.

Should you experience an ex parte communication, alert the chair about the contact in writing before the meeting and on the record at the beginning of the meeting so he or she can determine whether it is appropriate that you be recused from the discussion, deliberation, and vote. As the DES for the board, the chair is required to declare any conflict on the record.

If you are unsure about the nature and extent of the contact, please contact the board's staff for guidance.

### ***Conflict Due to Market Interest***

Another interesting conflict of interest issue that is gaining awareness is that of the potential for disproportionate influence of "active market participants" on boards. An active market participant is defined as someone who is currently engaged in the profession that the board regulates—or, licensees.

By nature, all licensed members of a board have an inherent market interest. However, determining whether a conflict exists goes a little deeper. Questions board members may ask to evaluate whether there is a possibility of running afoul of AS 39.52.120 (Misuse of Official Position):

- Does the matter involve an individual or business that is a direct competitor?
- Will ruling on this matter have a meaningful or measurable financial outcome for me, my family, or my business?
- Is there a *perception* that either of these answers are "yes"?
- A licensee wishes to utilize a new, cutting-edge health care technology and is seeking the

board’s “thumbs up” in approving it for practice in Alaska. A member of the board is an investor in this technology and is considering utilizing it in his practice. The board member discloses this financial interest and asks to be recused from deliberation and vote. The chair recuses him, and he does not participate.

Market conflicts can extend to entire boards, as well. A 2015 United States Supreme Court decision ([\*North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission\*](#)) resulted in a ruling that stripped the board of its immunity when addressing what might have seemed like a routine matter: The board violated the Sherman Act when it directed staff to send cease-and-desist letters to unlicensed teeth whiteners. Under North Carolina law, the teeth whitening companies posed a direct financial threat to dentists. By instructing them to close, they deprived the businesses of due process—as well as an income. The board did not work through their attorney or follow the standard investigative process when directing these individuals to close their businesses.

The case is complex, yet under Alaska law, the takeaway for professional licensing boards is straightforward:

- Ensure that the division’s investigative standard operating procedures are followed.
- Adhere to the Administrative Procedure Act when taking action against anyone, licensed or unlicensed.
- Invite the department Boards and Regulations Advisor to assist with decisionmaking processes.
- Ask staff to invite an agency attorney to advise in policymaking that may restrict those outside the profession from engaging in business practices.
- Hold all deliberations in public view and invite the public to actively observe and comment.

Regarding matters involving ethics or potential real or perceived conflicts of interest, always ask for help well ahead of a meeting on the matter. Obtaining proper advice and following it will ensure everyone’s rights are protected and that the most appropriate process is followed.

### **Board Members and Industry Association Involvement**

Serving on both a state regulatory or advisory board and the board of the industry association it regulates creates many inherent points of friction. This potential conflict extends to persons employed by an industry organization with business before the board. Some conflicts may violate state law and create legal problems for yourself, the board, and others associated with the issue. If a potential conflict is detected, plan ahead and learn how to declare a potential conflict on an issue and request recusal from the chair, who is the board’s designated ethics supervisor. This requires incredibly thorough preparation prior to all state and association board meetings and readiness during these meetings to act appropriately and step away, if needed.

#### **Can a board member engage in discussions at association meetings about open board regulations?**

No. Discussing or overhearing open board matters in association settings—especially with association members involved in those matters—can raise concerns about misuse of position, improper influence, and unfair treatment. It may appear that the board member is basing decisions on association input rather than the public interest. The board member should recuse his or herself from those discussions or prepare to recuse his or herself from participating regarding the open matter as part of the board. At no

time should the board member disclose confidential or non-public information gained as a board member to the association.

**What if a board member participates in association policy decisions that may later come before the board?**

This creates a conflict of interest. Under AS 39.52.220, the member must declare the conflict on the record and abstain from any board deliberation, vote, or participation on that matter. There's a risk that private association discussions improperly inform public decisions.

**Is it acceptable for an association to compensate a board member for travel, meals, or other expenses while doing work that overlaps with board business?**

No. Accepting outside compensation for state work is not allowed. If the association covers expenses related to work that could reasonably be viewed as board-related (e.g., legislative advocacy), the member must file a **gift disclosure** form. If the State is covering travel for board business, the member may not extend the trip at State expense to do association work; any association-related days or expenses must not be state-funded.

**Can a board member testify on legislation while representing both the board and the association?**

It depends. If the activity of the board is such that all members vote to determine the board's position on legislation, then the member who is part of an industry association that is actively speaking out on that same legislation would need to have already recused him or herself from the matter. This recusal would carry over and prevent subsequent testimony concerning the board's position. But, if the member is going to testify on board matters as well as industry association matters where the member was not conflicted out, then the member is free to do so as long as he or she clearly identifies which "hat" he or she is wearing and provides proper disclaimers identifying when the member is or is not speaking on behalf of the board. It's essential to clarify whether the member is speaking on behalf of the board or on behalf of the association. They cannot speak as representatives of both simultaneously. All testimony as a board member must receive pre-approval by the Governor's Legislative Director.

**Can a board member who is a member of the industry vote on regulatory standards that apply to all stakeholders?**

Typically, yes. If the matter affects all stakeholders equally and doesn't confer a substantial personal benefit to the board member, it's not considered a conflict.

**What if the board member is an association member but doesn't participate in association decisions or discussions related to board topics?**

If the member remains passive in association decision-making and avoids discussions on board-related topics, there's usually no substantial conflict.

**What if the board member is a volunteer or representational lobbyist of an association?**

The same kind of analysis applies regarding any potential overlap between board work and association work. There may be additional concerns relating to requirements managed by the [Alaska Public Offices Commission](#).

**Board Members and Public Records**

As officers of the state, board members are compelled to adhere to state standards of documents and information shared with them. This may mean maintaining strict confidentiality, which could require saving on an unshared computer or storing in a locked cabinet. Confidential documents should always be transmitted via OnBoard, ZendTo, or using email encryption.

All emails, documents, handwritten notes, texts, and other means of communicating state business are discoverable. Many board members set up separate email addresses to ensure their state business is separate from work accounts or their personal lives. If communication on a legal matter were to be subpoenaed, it is possible that deep entanglement could require confiscation of a personal cell phone or computer. Board members are advised to become familiar with the standards and take steps to separate accounts, documents, and other information containing state business.

## IV. Frameworks and Principles for Decisionmaking

The [Administrative Procedure Act](#) is the foundation for the board’s overall deliberative authority. Utilizing a consistent and defensible process to make decisions is the board’s best tool in achieving desirable outcomes that have a lasting effect. Adopting a process for decisionmaking will help the board get unstuck when a tough topic arises —and help avoid getting stuck the next time. It will help guide members from bullying by dominant personalities and toward logical, rational considerations. It will establish a transparent deliberative process that the board can use to help explain its position to affected parties. Having a defined process may also help defend the position if challenged in court.

The following general steps will aid in consistent and defensible decisionmaking:

- **Establish the criteria on which a decision will be made.** This is often called a decision framework or a decision tree. Several examples follow in this section.
- **Utilize the framework to systematically apply these questions to the matter at hand.**
- **Deliberate transparently**, creating a record showing the facts that were considered when reaching the decision, the board’s decisions on similar matters, and rationale for the decision, especially if there is a surface appearance of inconsistency.
- **Test the board’s decision** through the regulations process, presenting to industry groups, or other venues for inviting public scrutiny.
- **Publish the record and evaluate on a regular schedule** to ensure the criteria are the same. Changes in laws, practices, industries, and other factors may require reevaluation of the board’s previous decision.

### Deciding what issues the board will address

The board may establish a general framework for determining how to spend their time and resources. The board could use this type of high-level framework to objectively and dispassionately determine whether to take on a particular issue, helping focus on the board’s core responsibilities and avoiding distractions outside its mission, scope, or resources.

The following infographic can help guide a board through determining its decisionmaking priorities. Well-meaning boards can easily fall into various traps: Boards should avoid wandering into issues that pull on the heartstrings but are not within the board’s authority to address. Similarly, just because one wheel is exceptionally squeaky does not mean it should receive the board’s grease. Adopting a strategic plan, discussed in the next chapter, can help guide the board in wise use of its time and resources.

# FRAMEWORK

## PART ONE: SHOULD WE DELIBERATE ON THIS TOPIC?

### Authority

1

**Is the issue within the board's statutory mandate and mission?**

If yes, move to the next criterion.  
If no, the board should identify a decision-making body better suited to resolve the issue and decline to move forward.

### Public Protection

2

**If we don't address this issue, is the public threatened or harmed?**

If yes, begin work on the issue.  
If no, determine whether it meets a different criterion or whether the board should address it at a future date.

### Public Interest

3

**Does our decision make a material difference to stakeholders?**

Stakeholders may include the general public, licensees, potential patients, related agencies or organizations, etc.

If yes, move to the next criterion.  
If no, determine whether to work on it at a future date—or at all.

### Ownership

4

**Are we the best group to lead this effort?**

Does it make sense for this board to *lead* the effort, or is another group better resourced, more educated, or otherwise better positioned to take the reins? Identify partners next.

### Partners

5

**Will we need to collaborate with other groups?**

Weighing another person or group's availability may impact how the board moves forward. Connect with everyone whose input is needed. If public comment is advisable, identify opportunities and methods to obtain that input.

### Priority

6

**Where does this matter rank among other items we are facing?**

Evaluate how the board will work this matter into its busy schedule. Is there a hard deadline to complete the work? Could the board form a committee to focus on this while other members work concurrently on other projects? Are more meetings needed?

### Resources

7

**Does our board have access to the resources needed to address this issue?**

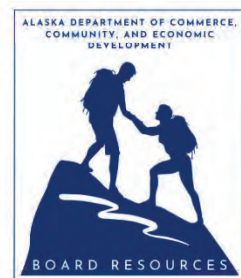
If yes, move to the next criterion.  
If no, determine what resources are needed. Invite division managers to collaborate on how to obtain resources. If resources are not available, the board may need to look to a different organization to assist with the issue.

### Perception

8

**Are there intangible ways we can be impacted by pursuing this issue?**

Whether good or bad, perception matters. Enter into the deliberative process anticipating any pitfalls or opportunities. If the board decides not to move forward because of a negative perception, ensure that it is not shirking its statutory responsibility. If #1 is yes, the board may have no choice.



## Decisionmaking principles

Because board membership changes over time, it is important for boards to establish principles or values that they agree to guide their decisionmaking. These common, agreed-upon statements can be used by members to:

- Check their own biases before speaking or voting
- Maintain focus on matters within the board's statutory scope and mission
- Align the process with available resources, such as staff and budget
- Safeguard transparency to stakeholders
- Ensure the outcome is consistent with the board's values

Board decisions are only final when the following criteria are present:

- A quorum of the board has met in a publicly noticed meeting to vote on the issue.
- The motion is clearly worded and understood by the members when deliberating.
- A majority of the members present has voted on the record to adopt the decision.
- Each person's vote is recorded in the minutes.
- The decision is not inconsistent with the law or outside the board's authority to determine.

The board should demand professionalism in its decisionmaking. Avoid basing important outcomes on vague or unwritten motions or straw polls such as "Does everyone agree?" Take a moment to write down and distribute the motion or show it on the screen. Encourage all members to contribute to the discussion and register their vote on the record.

If the facts change, the board can always revisit the topic and register a different vote. However, confusing communications are a liability to the licensees, public, staff, and the board itself. Take the time needed to efficiently but thoroughly deliberate, then stick to the vote of the board if consistent with the law.

# PROFESSIONAL LICENSING DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK

## PART TWO: HOW DO WE DELIBERATE ON THIS TOPIC?

### Mission

#### Keep the primary purpose of the board at top of mind.

The board's top priority is to operate within the public interest. What does that look like in the context of this issue? How will the board balance all relevant interests within its regulatory mission? Ensure the board evaluates and understands the impacts of its decisions on the public.

### Fairness

#### How do we ensure the process and outcomes are fair?

Is the board actively soliciting input from all parties, including licensees, the public, and other key stakeholders? If advisable, are meeting notices being shared in addition to the OPN, newspaper, and web site? How is public comment being solicited? How will the board evaluate input from stakeholders they may not be familiar with?

### Risk

#### What are the risks to adopting this decision?

Ensure your decision falls within the boundaries of state law. Are we following the appropriate investigative or regulatory process? Are we making a decision against attorney or division advice? Do we even have enough information to move forward? Invite your AAG or board advisor if additional help is anticipated.

### Perception

#### Are there intangible ways we can be impacted by pursuing this issue?

Determine how to manage the impacts of decisions that may be necessary but unpopular. Is extra communication warranted? Is a head's up to the governor's office prudent? Ask the division director or board advisor for advice on threading an unpopular needle.

### Consistency

#### Explain departures from previous positions.

If the board is veering from previous decisions on this issue, explain why. What has changed? Did the board receive new data? Did the makeup or leadership of the board shift? Were other laws passed, or has the industry changed in a meaningful way? Disciplinary decisions require an explanation if the board is acting differently than it has in similar situations. With major shifts, stakeholders will appreciate understanding the rationale.

### Authority

#### 1 The issue is within the board's statutory mandate and mission.

In Part One, the board determined this issue is within its purview. Take an inventory of the statutes and regulations that are relevant to the discussion, and have those resources at the ready. If the matter is not within the board's statutory scope, put it away and keep monitoring.

### Objectivity

#### 3 Can the members of the board maintain objectivity in the discussion?

If unsure, you may need to actively perform a conflict check to ensure that the topic is "in bounds" for all members. Is anyone too close to the topic? Even if there is no ethical conflict, is everyone prepared to hold a calm, logical, and reasoned discussion?

### Efficiency

#### 5 Are we seeking the most efficient outcome?

Does the right decision come wrapped in unnecessary regulation, additional cost, or red tape? Ensure that the implementation of the board's decision is streamlined, elegant, easy to understand, and cost-effective. Invite division managers to discuss the impacts on staffing, paperwork, fees, and investigations. Ask licensees if the proposed solution will increase their expenses or efforts.

### Partners

#### 7 Will we need to collaborate with other groups?

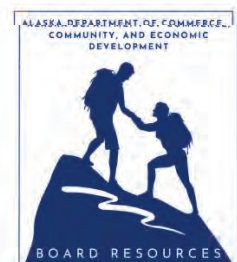
If a business, organization, or group of people will experience a big change because of the decision, will partnering with them early on help mitigate the outcome? Weighing another stakeholder's availability to engage may impact how the board moves forward.

### Timeline

#### 9 Stay on top of the schedule.

Are you working toward a fixed deadline like renewal or legislative session? Backwards plan to ensure your meetings, regulations, forms revision, and other steps stay on track. The board's decision may have impacts that require others to take additional steps, so discuss those up front to make sure the expectations of board members and staff are all moving forward in sync.

#### 10



## Is It a Regulation or a Policy?

Frequently, a board may have the need to interpret its statutes or regulations for the public. This is often experienced in the form of a question: “Am I allowed to do X,” “Are licensees allowed to perform Y,” or “Do I need Z to qualify for a license?”

Boards are obliged by state law to interpret their practice acts and other statutes and regulations within their purview. They cannot ignore these questions or fail to clarify information needed by licensees or the public pertaining to licensure of their profession(s). So, they are posed with the job of navigating waters that may be murky at best, and tumultuous at worst. Calling on procedural partners within the division or department, or requesting a legal opinion, is necessary to complement the board’s subject-matter expertise.

In these situations, boards have several options for responding, depending on what their program’s statutes and regulations say. Options for responding may include asking staff to respond with a straightforward email message restating an existing statute or regulation. If the question is asked frequently, the board may decide to publish a position, guideline, or FAQ on its web site. If the answer to the question is unclear, or if it needs to be defensible, the board may wish to adopt a regulation to provide that unequivocal clarity. But, how does the board know which approach is appropriate?

A black-and-white rule that unequivocally dictates a standard or outcome is a de facto regulation. To be applied without deliberation or consideration of mitigating circumstances, it must be adopted as a regulation. Guidance that suggests an interpretation but is not something the board would enforce or defend can be adopted as a policy, position, or FAQ. Any interpretation must be aligned with existing statutes and regulations unless amending those regulations. As long as Administrative Order 360 is active, interpretive documents like these must go through a formal legal review process. Refer to AO 360 guidance or the department’s Agency Regulatory Liaison for assistance.

If a board finds that its statutes are not clear, it should work with division management and the Governor’s Legislative Director to request a legislative change. Lack of clarity in law is frustrating to board members, licensees, and the public. If acted upon, it may create financial hardship for the licensee and legal troubles for everyone. A board member who interprets law contrary to their Assistant Attorney General’s assistance could find themselves relieved of their personal immunity and subject to legal penalties. While this is an extreme example, it is important to keep in mind. Board members can protect themselves (and their licensees) by acting as a body and utilizing sound resources in arriving at their decisions.

# REGULATIONS **VS** POLICIES



## REGULATIONS ARE LAWS

Must be followed, are not optional, and can be enforced.

Can only be amended through the formal adoption process in AS 44.62.

A disciplinary matrix is a regulation if it is an inflexible "if-then" formula requiring consistency in all instances.



## POLICIES ARE IDEAS

General and nonbinding guidance; do not have the force of law.

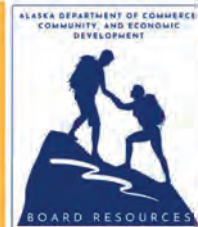
Can be adopted or amended by board vote.

A disciplinary matrix is a policy if it is used as a reference point along with consideration of the facts and relevant statutes and regulations.

### REGULATIONS AND POLICIES SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY:

**CLARITY:** Available and understandable to everyone

**CONSISTENCY:** With statute, regulations, and board communications about similar facts



## Is It Within the Scope of Practice?

Boards are regularly asked by licensees, the public, course providers, and others: “Is this activity within the scope of practice of this license?” It is appropriate for the professional licensing board to make this determination. However, boards cannot effectively answer in a vacuum.

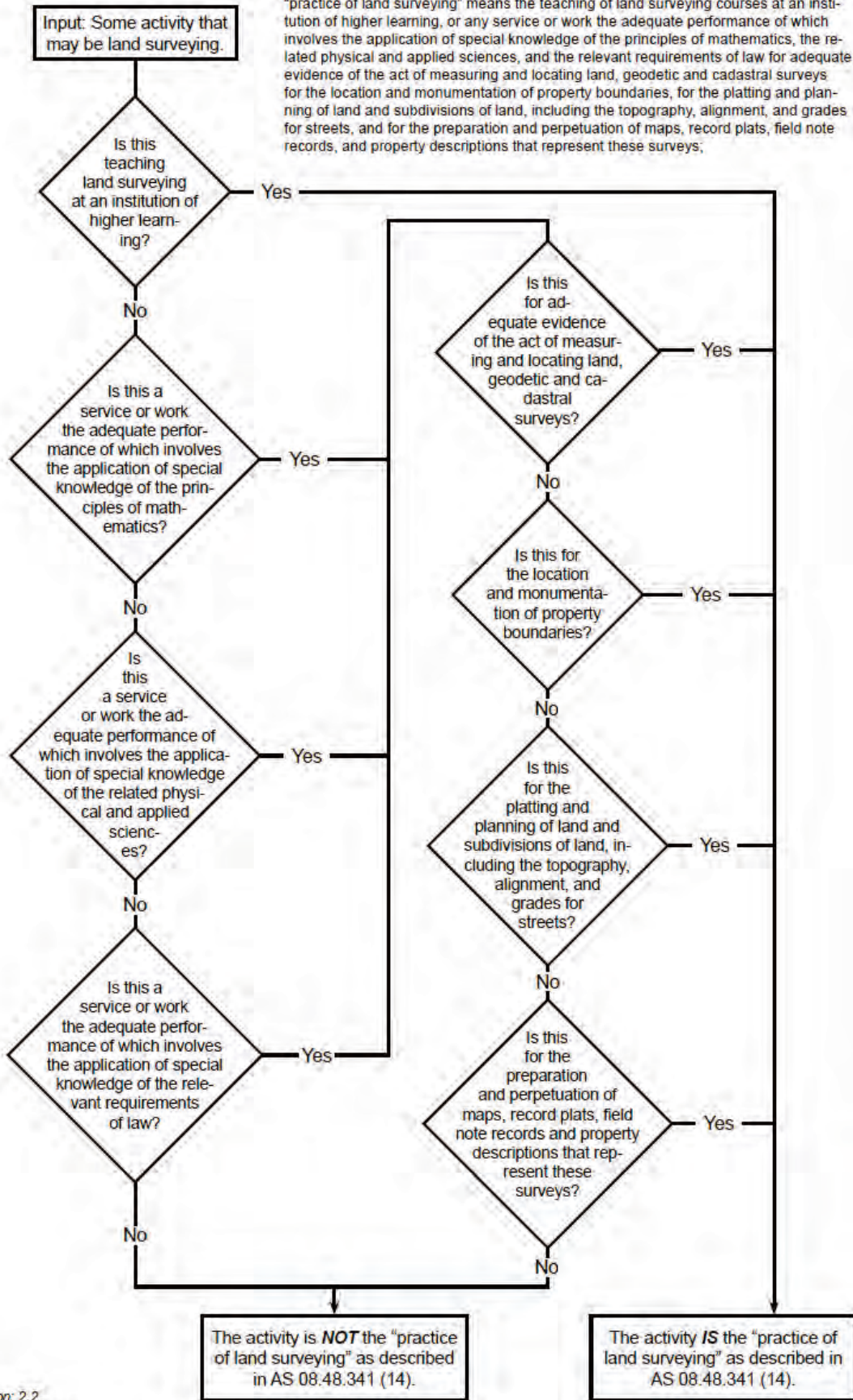
Some elements to consider:

- 1. Does the board have enough information to answer the question?**
  - a. Has the question been provided in writing?
  - b. Is there additional information the board requires before deliberating?
  - c. Has the chair ensured all board members understand the question and the activity in question?
- 2. Does the statutory definition of practice under this license allow the activity?**
  - a. Is that definition clear?
  - b. Do other statutes within the board’s chapter inform the context of the definition of practice? What about provisions within centralizes licensing statutes?
  - c. Do other statutes outside of the board’s chapter inform the practice? (For example, are areas of law within the Department of Health relevant to a health care licensee? For a construction contractor, what about building or electrical codes? For a hairdresser or manicurist, what do laws within the Department of Environmental Conservation say about the activity?)
  - d. How do regulations adopted by the board or other relevant agencies further define this activity?
- 3. Has the board consulted its attorney?**
  - a. Is there Alaska case law relevant to this practice?
  - b. Are there board precedents or decisions that may inform this decision?
  - c. Do federal standards exist that are relevant to this license or this activity?
  - d. Are we reading the existing laws correctly?
  - e. Are we calling out preferences, biases, professional practices, fears, industry guidance, and other elements that may lead the board’s deliberation astray?
  - f. Can our agency attorney help us see something we cannot see...and possibly arrive at a creative solution?
- 4. Have we followed the proper process?**
  - a. Is our deliberation transparent and thorough?
  - b. Have we engaged the appropriate people?
  - c. Does the response require a regulation?
  - d. Can our attorney defend this decision in court, if challenged?

There are several approaches to determining an outcome when posed with this question. The State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors has developed a tool to assist in discerning whether an activity meets the statutory definition of “land surveying”:

**"Practice of Land Surveying" as defined in AS 08.48.341 (14)**

"practice of land surveying" means the teaching of land surveying courses at an institution of higher learning, or any service or work the adequate performance of which involves the application of special knowledge of the principles of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and the relevant requirements of law for adequate evidence of the act of measuring and locating land, geodetic and cadastral surveys for the location and monumentation of property boundaries, for the platting and planning of land and subdivisions of land, including the topography, alignment, and grades for streets, and for the preparation and perpetuation of maps, record plats, field note records, and property descriptions that represent these surveys;



## Disciplinary decisionmaking

Board disciplinary action on a license, or denial of a license application, requires understanding of several foundational principles. These decisionmaking concepts are discussed here, and additional specific information about the investigative process is included in another chapter. Board members will receive additional training on steps in the enforcement process before engaging as a reviewing board member or being asked to vote on a matter. Boards should always request assistance from its attorney if it is unsure in how to proceed with a decision that affects a person's property right or ability to earn a living

**All parties have a right to due process under state law.** The board's deliberation and final decision are important parts of a larger enforcement process authorized by [AS 08.01.087](#) and implemented through the division's investigative section. Division investigators are responsible to ensure board members are trained on the board's role in investigations, review, recommendation for resolution, and, ultimately, deliberation and action. This process safeguards both the complainant and respondent from bias, undue or inappropriate influence, or unlawful procedures. It also retains the statutory appeal rights of a respondent.

**Precedent informs the board's exercise of discretion but does not tie the board's hands.** Under centralized licensing statute AS 08.01.075(f), "A board shall seek consistency in the application of disciplinary sanctions. A board shall explain a significant departure from prior decisions involving similar facts in the order imposing the sanction." This means that while the same violation may be present among various cases, the circumstances may be different.

The investigator will present examples of how the board has voted on similar violations; this information may be included in the reviewing board member's work file, part of a disciplinary matrix adopted by the board, or in a memo or verbal presentation to the board in executive session. As statute states, precedent is not binding on the board itself, which may require additional review and consideration of the facts before making a final decision.

**Information used in the disciplinary decisionmaking process must be legitimate.** Board members may not conduct external investigations, gather data, or listen to input from sources that are not part of the official division investigation. If relevant information is discovered, it should be provided to the investigator and any ex parte discussions disclosed.

This guidance also pertains to information that members may naturally know about a party because of preexisting relationships: If a board member has outside information that may be relevant, it should be disclosed to the investigator, who may need to perform a conflict check or determine if the new data should be shared with the reviewing board member or rest of the board.

## V. Strategic Planning General Overview

### Why engage in strategic planning?

Compared to private non-profit boards of directors or corporate agencies, the purpose of a regulatory board has a limited focus. Along this narrow lane, the board shoulders considerable responsibility to *regulate a profession in the public interest*. Regulatory boards are free from many of the burdens held by other types of boards. They do not employ staff, and they do not manage a budget, so they do not have the responsibility of directly managing these resources. However, the state legislature has given them considerable power and influence over specific important areas:

1. Establishing and managing the gateway to employment in the profession in Alaska.
2. Influencing the availability of services of this profession in Alaska.
3. Supervising the practice of the profession in Alaska.
4. Setting standards of continued practice of the profession in Alaska.
5. Handling persons who do not practice the profession safely or in the public interest.

Within the lanes set by the state legislature, there is plenty of opportunity for a board to proceed in one of three directions:

1. Hold back progress by blindly maintaining the status quo,
2. Degrade the public's trust through negligence or recklessness, or
3. Improve outcomes through intentional and thoughtful decisionmaking.

A strategic planning process answers the following questions:

<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b> The mission is the purpose of the board.	Who are we?	What does our enabling statute say we do?
	Why are we here?	What is our functional purpose?
<b>VISION STATEMENT</b> The vision is how the board imagines exemplifying its mission.	Where are we headed?	What does the best version of our licensing program look like?
		What does the best version of our board look like?
		What is the vision of this board's contribution to nursing in this state?
<b>ANALYSIS</b> A gathering of existing facts or data to frame the board's current position and prepare it to establish goals.	Where are we now?	What are our activities?
		What are the metrics for those activities?
	How can we do better?	What are stakeholders' perceptions about us and why?
		Who are our stakeholders and how do we interact?
		What resources are needed for our activities?
		What are our strengths?
		What are our weaknesses?
		What opportunities do we have?
		What threats do we face?
What are our activities?		
<b>INITIATIVES</b>	What are the main outcomes	How do we break out our vision into categories?

Initiatives are broad categories that exist within the board’s vision.	that accomplish our vision?	
<b>GOALS</b> Goals are the measurable outcomes the board plans to accomplish during this time period.	What do we want to accomplish within those categories?	What do outcomes look like?
<b>STRATEGIES</b> Broad actions that support reaching the stated goal.	How will we accomplish each goal?	What types of actions should be taken?
<b>OBJECTIVES</b> These are the measurable steps required to reach each goal.  <b>IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS</b> List any details that help ensure the objectives are met.	How are we using our resources?	What are the steps required to meet our goals?
	How are we being accountable to our stated outcomes?	What is the time frame for completion of each step?
		What are the specific resources needed for each step?
	Are our actions adhering to the plan?	Who will be involved?
<b>KPIs, TRACKING, &amp; EVALUATION</b> These are methods of determining whether outcomes have been met. They should be specific and measurable.	How are we doing?	What Key Performance Indicators are relevant to our outcomes?
	How will we know when we have reached our destination?	What Key Performance Indicators are within our control?
		How will we partner with the division to construct and communicate KPIs to the board and the public?
		How will others know how we are doing?
		How often will we schedule evaluations of the entire plan?
		How will we evaluate new activities against the framework of the plan?
		How and when will we adjust elements of the plan?

**Important elements in crafting a valuable strategic plan:**

- **Create one forward-focused vision.** Lack of a common vision will lead to fractured decisionmaking and resource allocation. The vision of a regulatory board should be reasonably simple to state since the board’s mandate and authority—ostensibly, its mission—come from the legislature via statute.

- **Ensure all stakeholders participate appropriately.** All board members should schedule time to fully participate in every decisionmaking process, especially stages of strategic planning. Stakeholders involved with the board, including those who are impacted by the board's decisions, should be provided a voice in the process that is commensurate with their role. Surveys, public comment, and focus groups are examples of ways stakeholders can be invited to share their input.
  
- **Draw attention to cognitive biases and flaws in reasoning, then set up structures to resist these common problems in decisionmaking:**
  - *Recency effect:* Because it's recent, it's valid
  - *Occam's razor bias:* Expressing a preference for the simplest decision over a more appropriate one
  - *Inertia bias:* Tending toward the familiar
  - *Framing effect:* Making a decision based on how the information is presented rather than the information itself
  - *Anchoring bias:* Becoming attached to initial information to the exclusion of additional data or viewpoints
  - *Confirmation bias:* Seeking and using data that confirms your viewpoint
  - *Self-Serving Bias:* This is one's tendency to attribute the positive results of a decision or situation to one's own actions or decision. Likewise, it causes individuals to attribute negative consequences to factors outside of our control.
  - *Availability bias:* Utilizing only immediately available information instead of researching additional data
  - *Stereotyping:* This is the tendency to believe a unique situation is indicative of a greater tendency.
  - *Action-oriented bias:* Making decisions because you feel internal or external pressure to act
  - *Dunning Kruger effect:* When a person's lack of knowledge and skills in a certain area cause them to overestimate their own competence
  - *Sunk cost fallacy:* Tendency to continue down an unproductive path because of the existing resources already allocated to it
  - *Status quo bias:* The tendency for people to like things to stay relatively the same. The preference towards alternatives that maintain or perpetuate the current situation even when better alternatives exist.
  - *Bandwagon effect:* The tendency to do (or believe) things because many other people do (or believe) the same.
  - *Illusion of control fallacy:* The tendency for human beings to believe they can control or at least influence outcomes which they clearly cannot.
  
- **Establish data-driven metrics to help gauge progress**
  - Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) for the board. Work with the division to learn management's KPIs for administrative operations, license processing, and investigative systems. Determine together how often and in what format these will be communicated to each other and to the public.
  - Good KPIs:
    - Provide objective evidence of progress towards achieving a desired result

- Measure what is intended to be measured to help inform better decision making
    - Offer a comparison that gauges the degree of performance change over time
    - Can track efficiency, effectiveness, quality, timeliness, governance, compliance, behaviors, economics, project performance, personnel performance or resource utilization
    - Are balanced between leading and lagging indicators
  - Consider that not everything that is important can be measured, and just because you can measure it doesn't mean you should. Heavy reliance on measurements can lead to reliance on partial truth and bias in decisionmaking.
- **Evaluate progress based on strategic goals**
  - Establish a process and timeline for all evaluation activities, including how to handle unplanned pivots.
  - Check in regularly as a board, with staff, and management. Plan additional check-ins with key stakeholders, such as industry associations, national organizations that support state licensing boards, and other important partners. Establish standards for how voices will be granted the power to influence board decisions—see [“The Man in the Arena”](#) speech by President Theodore Roosevelt. The squeaky wheel may not be worthy of all the grease.
  - Consult both the measured and anecdotal data, as well as the perception. Close gaps if practical and meaningful to do so.
  - Hold new activities and ideas against the framework of the plan to ensure you are staying on track.
  - Be prepared to pivot as you receive new data and as circumstances change.

*Overview of strategic plan evaluation; Balanced Scorecard Institute*



## VI. Meetings and Motions

### Rules of Procedure

Rules of procedure are not statutes or regulations but, rather, are guidelines that the board or commission has agreed to follow. Contained in these rules might be a list identifying the board or commission’s standing committees, the parliamentary procedure for running meetings, or perhaps a requirement to end meetings at a certain time. Boards and commissions may also pass regulations that specify how many unexcused absences are allowable before a member is recommended for removal from the board. Additional internal guidance on meeting management is published to aid staff.

### Setting the Agenda

The board chair holds the responsibility for setting the agenda for meetings. Consultation with the board liaison (staff member assigned to the board) should occur at least 30 days before the meeting to allow time for the meeting materials to be submitted to staff and uploaded to OnBoard. Staff’s goal is to provide board members with a full meeting packet two weeks before the meeting date. This should ensure ample time for members to study, ask questions, and gather any additional information in time for discussion on the record.

It is helpful for staff to send a reminder to board members to suggest agenda items ahead of the agenda-setting meeting with the chair. Any topics suggested at the last meeting or in the interim can be added to the agenda. The member suggesting the topic should be prepared to lead that discussion.

The board or commission must approve an agenda format to be used at all regular meetings. A sample agenda might include the following:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>May Include</b>	<b>Details</b>
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll call</li> <li>• Statement of conflicts of interest</li> <li>• Approval of minutes of previous meeting*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to conduct business</li> <li>• Board may opt to approve minutes in OnBoard or in the consent agenda</li> </ul>
Public Comment	Opportunity for the public to provide input, opinions, and ideas to the board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended at every regular meeting</li> <li>• Board may also opt to accept public comments on specific agenda items</li> <li>• Different than public comment on regulations</li> </ul>
Consent Agenda		Used to adopt matters that may not need discussion, such as minutes, next meeting date, or acknowledging general information or reports
Division Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing staff update</li> <li>• Update from director or other management staff</li> </ul>	Division update is mandatory for all regular business meetings; if management determines it is not needed, it can be cancelled

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal report from management</li> <li>• Presentation on division legislation or policy matters</li> <li>• Training from specialized staff</li> </ul>	
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about future projects</li> <li>• Drafting regulations for introduction*</li> <li>• Discussion about proposed regulations with staff or AAG</li> <li>• Oral public hearing on noticed regulations</li> <li>• Adoption of regulations*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations specialist is recommended to be invited to all regulations discussions</li> <li>• Public comment on regulations is only allowed if announced with the regulations public notice</li> </ul>
Investigative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report of investigative activity since the last meeting</li> <li>• Executive session to address disciplinary matters</li> <li>• Continuing education review with the paralegal</li> </ul>	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of topics not yet presented to the board</li> <li>• May include presentations by individuals or national or state organizations</li> </ul>	
Old Business	Continuation of previous discussion by the board	
Committee Reports	Updates or findings from board committee work	
For the Good of the Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General opportunity to raise comments or questions otherwise not covered</li> <li>• Way for board members to suggest future agenda items</li> </ul>	
Adjournment*		

\* Typically requires a motion and vote of the board

The order of the agenda may be changed at the meeting. For example, an item toward the end of the agenda may be moved up and dealt with earlier in the meeting; this can be done by a motion to amend the agenda.

The agenda should be amended only when there is a good reason. Try to maintain the posted public comment periods and scheduled appointments; constituents and presenters may have rearranged their schedules to arrive at that time or may not be available other times of the day.

## Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of board or commission members required to conduct business. Unless otherwise established in statute or regulation, a majority of the total membership of the board or commission constitutes a quorum. If a quorum is not present, the board cannot continue its business and must recess or adjourn the meeting to a later date.

It is important for all members to be present at every meeting. Sensitive, complex, or difficult matters should be scheduled before the board or commission as often as possible when all members are present. If absences must occur, then proper notice must be given in order to determine whether to reschedule the meeting due to lack of quorum. The cost of travel and consideration of public notice have a great impact on the program's licensees, so absences must be taken seriously.

Boards and commissions may adopt regulations regarding removal of members for excessive absences. Board members who find they need to resign may do so in writing to the Office of Boards and Commissions with a copy to the Division. The Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions requests that boards with members who regularly abstain ensure that the practice is codified in that body's policy and that the policy is—as with other board policies—available to the public via the board's web page.

Sometimes, a member must request recusal from deliberation and voting due to a conflict of interest. A member who is recused by the chair from voting is considered present for purposes of a quorum. Formal actions of the board or commission must be taken by a majority of the quorum present. So, a motion will pass if the majority of the quorum votes in the affirmative; the vote must take into account the abstention of the member who has been recused. For example, if the quorum is four, and two members vote to pass a motion, one member votes no, and another abstains, the motion fails. The chair and liaison should plan well ahead of a meeting to help ensure quorum issues are managed well.

## Recusal Due to Conflict of Interest

Members may be required to request recusal from deliberation and voting on a matter due to a conflict of interest. Boards must ensure fair and impartial deliberation and decisions, so members may need to request recusal by the chair when it is established that the member has a legitimate conflict of interest. AS 44.62.450(c) provides that “an agency member may not withdraw voluntarily or be disqualified if the disqualification would prevent the existence of a quorum qualified to act in the particular case.” Also known as the *rule of necessity*, it means that the board may determine the mandate to perform its official business is greater than the possibility of an existing conflict. This decision takes many factors into account and will usually require assistance from the board advisor or attorney. Plan well ahead of the meeting to navigate this issue, if it is relevant to the business before the board.

A member should only abstain if the chairperson has ruled that he or she has a conflict of interest on the matter being voted on. A board member must explain his or her conflict on the record and receive a ruling on whether a conflict exists. According to the [Alaska Executive Ethics Act for Members of Boards and Commissions](#), this should be done in writing ahead of the meeting so the chair can receive assistance in determining whether a conflict exists. The chairperson's ruling, whichever way it goes, may be overridden by a majority of the board or commission.

A board member who has been the reviewer of an investigative matter (“reviewing board member” or RBM) is often recused from deliberation and voting. If the member has viewed additional “inadmissible”

information, has established a bias, or otherwise poses a risk to due process, the member should be recused. If in doubt, ask staff for assistance well ahead of the meeting.

If the chair, with the advice of counsel (board investigator, board advisor, and/or board attorney) determines no such conflict exists, the member should remain in the discussion and vote, if that is what is required to maintain a quorum. This situation should be recorded in case the vote is challenged.

It is a misconception that the chair can only vote in the case of a tie. From [www.robertsrules.com](http://www.robertsrules.com):

If the chair is a member of the voting body, he or she has exactly the same rights and privileges as all other members have, including the right to make motions, to speak in debate, and to vote on all questions. So, in meetings of a small board (where there are not more than about a dozen board members present), and in meetings of a committee, the presiding officer may exercise these rights and privileges as fully as any other member.

When will the chair's vote affect the result? On a vote that is not by ballot, if a majority vote is required and there is a tie, he or she may vote in the affirmative to cause the motion to prevail. If there is one more in the affirmative than in the negative, the chair can create a tie by voting in the negative to cause the motion to fail. Similarly, if a two-thirds vote is required, he or she may vote either to cause, or to block, attainment of the necessary two thirds.

### **Taking Part in Debate**

Debate and discussion are not the same. Discussion is general and does not necessarily lead to closure of an issue. It is the method used for less formal meetings and work sessions. Debate occurs after a motion has been made, and formal board or commission actions are required. Board discussion is not a formal request for action, so members must make a motion to propose an actionable item--particularly one that involves a fiscal matter, policy change, or staff response.

Debate and discussion at board and commission meetings go through the chairperson. If a board or commission member wants to speak, he or she must raise a hand or indicate interest in speaking by getting the chair's attention. Usually saying "Madam Chair" or "Mister Chairman" is sufficient. Wait to be recognized by the chairperson. If there is a motion on the floor, then the member may only speak to that motion. Members should never interrupt one another but should strive to proceed with deference to the chair. When engaging in a back-and-forth, preceding comment with "Through the chair" gives the chairperson the opportunity to recognize the speaker. (When speaking directly to the chair, one would say "To the chair" when recognized.)

Formality may depend on the culture of the board. Comments should be brief and to the point. Avoid pontificating or repeating points in an effort to manipulate the discussion. Members in disagreement should make their views known, then yield to other members or presenters who have been invited to speak.

### **Public Participation**

Members may mingle with the public in other settings, but meetings are the events at which the public's business is conducted and decisions are made, so meetings should be conducted in a calm, orderly environment free from disruptions. After all, good decisions are more likely in a quiet, controlled, uninterrupted setting. When the public informally interacts with the board during a meeting, the

business can be disrupted and the outcome of the motion could become unclear. It also provides an uneven playing field for solicitation of input to the board.

Members of the public are not members of the board, so they should refrain from engaging in board business. Members of the public may speak during the common public comment period, or they may formally request to address the board by requesting to be on the agenda well ahead of time or by signing in to address the board during a publicly noticed oral comment period on proposed regulations. At in-person meetings, members of the public should not sit at the board table unless they are called on, then return to their set in the gallery when finished.

### **Parliamentary Procedure**

One of the greatest procedural tools a board can utilize is one of parliamentary procedure, which sets the protocol for meeting management. The use of parliamentary procedure for meetings fulfills several important purposes. It provides structure for deliberation of issues. It ensures that only one item at a time is before the board or commission for debate. It provides a forum for debate that is fair to everyone and partial to no one. Finally, it permits the will of the majority to prevail while protecting the rights of the minority and permitting all sides of an issue to be heard.

Most boards and commissions use Robert's Rules of Order ([www.robertsrules.com](http://www.robertsrules.com)), and there are many guides available online or in hard copy to demystify the process. A guide to the parliamentary motions used most frequently is included here.

Parliamentary procedure is not as complex as many fear. Thankfully, Robert's Rules for small boards applies to all CBPL boards and allows a more relaxed approach to business in most circumstances. Formal action should always take place via motion, but small boards can proceed with some business without the formal motion or process that would otherwise be required. The rule of thumb is to use Robert's Rules to help manage the meeting with clarity. If you find you are in a "procedural pretzel," pause and return to the topic after a short break or consult the supervisor or board advisor for help.

### **Types of Motions**

The backbones of parliamentary procedure are in motions and how they are made and disposed of, the various categories of motions, and the relationship between motions. There are four types of motions, but the most common is the main motion, which brings an item of business before the board or commission for its formal deliberation. Only a main motion can bring matters before the board or commission for a vote.

### **Making a Motion**

A main motion is the way an item is placed before the board or commission for consideration and action. For example, a board or commission member, after being recognized by the chair, may say, "I move to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2022, meeting as amended." The chairperson then asks for a second person to support the motion and, when the motion is seconded, asks if there is any debate on the motion. Any subsidiary motions that may be made, such as a motion to amend, table, or send the motion to a committee, must be voted on before the main motion may be voted on.

**Every motion consists of eight steps that follow in order:**

1. A board member seeks recognition from the chair.

2. The member is recognized by the chair and “has the floor.”
3. The member makes a motion.
4. The motion is seconded (if appropriate, see chart).
5. The chair (or staff, if delegated) restates the motion to the body.
6. Board debates the motion.
7. Board votes on the motion either by roll call or unanimous consent.
8. The chair (or staff, if delegated) announces the result of the vote.

Following the outline above is efficient and provides clarity. However, boards will often discuss a matter first, then a member will make a motion. While technically backwards, how to conduct its administrative business is a cultural decision the board must make. As long as the process is transparent and understandable, it is fine to make a motion after the discussion.

Motions should use simple, straightforward language that is easily understood and captured on the record. Board members should keep two guiding thoughts in mind when making a motion:

- Do my fellow members understand what is being proposed so they can vote on it?
- Will the public be able to understand the effect of the motion if it passes?

When it won't complicate an issue, motions should be made in the affirmative. For example, “I move to approve the license application of Jane Doe, #12345” is appropriate, even if the maker of the motion is unsure or even against the motion. Members should avoid making a motion in the negative, such as “I move to deny the license application of Jane Doe, #12345.” The debate should begin on the premise that the motion is in the affirmative and not color the outcome by presupposing the board will not support the action—especially regarding license applications or other appeals to the board from licensees. Failing to make the motion in the affirmative does not void the motion.

Members proposing complicated motions, such as amending regulations, should consider submitting a written draft ahead of time or asking the chair for a brief recess to write the motion down. This will help ensure the motion can be clearly stated and restated, if needed. The maker may want to display the motion on screen or email to staff to ensure the record accurately reflects the motion.

When debate winds down, the chair must ensure all members have had the opportunity to fully explore the matter before calling for a vote. There is no such thing as “calling the question,” and members should refrain from pressuring other members into voting when they are not ready. Assessing whether the conversation has run its course is the prerogative of the chair. (It is also the chair's prerogative to make a motion, if he or she wishes. While it is not good form to dominate the meeting, there is no rule that precludes the chair of a small board from offering the occasional motion.)

## Voting

Once debate on a motion is completed, the board or commission has to vote. Every member present must vote unless the member declares a conflict of interest and the chairperson (or presiding officer) rules that the member has a conflict of interest that prevents him or her from voting. Voting may be given orally or as a show of hands—as long as how each member voted is recorded in the minutes. Under state law, the public has a right to know how each member voted, so the minutes should reflect each person's vote on each motion. Typically, votes on matters of substance (regulations, disposition of cases, applications, etc.) should be conducted as roll-call votes. Procedural matters (adopting minutes,

adopting the agenda, adjournment) can be handled through unanimous consent, provided the chair has given an opportunity to object. If there is objection, a roll-call vote must be taken. Members should only abstain from a vote after stating a conflict on the record and having the recusal approved by the chair (or the whole board, if the member abstaining is the chair). Members should avoid abstaining without a stated reason; if there is a legal or ethical issue that should not be stated on the record, the member should discuss with staff well ahead of the meeting so it can be handled properly ahead of deliberation and voting.

### How to Deny a License Application

As mentioned above, Motions should be crafted in the affirmative to avoid presumption of bias or outcome. This should be the default unless doing so would complicate the record—there should be no confusion about the motion and outcome of the vote. In license denials, it is often cleanest and clearest for the maker of the motion to craft the motion based on the Order written by the investigator.

Regarding license action, here's the basic information needed on the record:

- **License number:** It is okay to include the licensee name since this is a final public action, but the number will suffice if it is clear and accurately recorded.
- **Action being taken:** Usually the verb part of the motion, such as “revoke,” “deny,” “suspend,” “accept a consent agreement,” etc.
- **Statutory or regulatory reason for the action:** A citation of the specific statutes) or regulation(s) is adequate.

This should be consistent with the information in the Order. For example:

*“I move to deny the certified direct-entry midwife application #ABCDEFGH by Jane Doe pursuant to AS 08.65.110(2), (3), (6); AS 08.65.150; 12 AAC 14.130; and 12 AAC 14.140.”*

When you are planning the meeting and know that board action is likely, the chair or other board member may wish to “pre-draft” motions for the board to use as a starting point. These draft motions are not meant to influence an outcome and can/should be worded differently on the fly, depending on the deliberation. The attached board motion worksheet can guide this process.

If reasons for denial are confidential under state law, the board can discuss them in executive session and decline to list them on the record. However, staff will need the information to provide in the statement of issues to the applicant. If possible, consult the AAG and investigator who are assisting with the matter and invite them to participate in executive session.

### Unanimous Consent

Unanimous consent occurs when all members vote in favor of a motion. Sometimes unanimous consent simply occurs after a vote, when all members vote the same way. Other times, unanimous consent may be requested as part of a motion. Typically, this request happens when the person making the motion knows the item is not controversial. The person making the motion might say, “Mr. [or Madam] Chair, I move to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2022, meeting and ask for unanimous consent.” The chair then asks if there is any objection. If there is none, the item is adopted by unanimous consent. Discussion may also be permitted but usually only for clarification. If there is objection, then debate occurs and the matter goes to a vote.

## Using a Consent Agenda to Improve Meeting Efficiency

At every board meeting, at least a few items come to the agenda that do not need any discussion or debate either because they are routine procedures or are already bound for unanimous consent. A consent agenda allows the board to approve all these items together without discussion or individual motions. Depending upon the organization, this can free up anywhere from a few minutes to a half hour for more substantial discussion.

### What belongs on the consent agenda?

Typical consent agenda items are routine, procedural decisions, and decisions that are likely to be noncontroversial. Examples include:

- Approval of the minutes
- Final approval of proposals or reports that the board has been dealing with for some time and all members are familiar with the implications
- Routine matters such as appointments to committees
- Reports provided for information only
- Correspondence requiring no action
- Future meeting dates

### How are consent items handled?

A consent agenda can only work if the reports and other matters for the meeting agenda are known in advance and distributed with agenda package in sufficient time to be read by all members prior to the meeting. A typical procedure is as follows:

1. When preparing the meeting agenda, the chair determines whether an item belongs on the consent agenda.
2. The chair prepares a numbered list of the consent items as part of, or as an attachment to, the meeting agenda.
3. The list and supporting documents are included in the board's agenda package in sufficient time to be read by all members prior to the meeting.
4. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair asks members what items they wish to be removed from the consent agenda and discussed individually.
5. If any member requests that an item be removed from the consent agenda, it must be removed. Members may request that an item be removed for any reason. They may wish, for example, to discuss the item, to query the item, or to register a vote against the item.
6. Once it has been removed, the chair can decide whether to take up the matter immediately or place it on the regular meeting agenda.
7. When there are no more items to be removed, the chair reads out the numbers of the remaining consent items. Then the chair states: "Are there any objections to these items being adopted?" After pausing for any objections, the chair states "As there are no objections, these items are adopted by unanimous consent."
8. When preparing the minutes, include the full text of the resolutions, reports or recommendations that were adopted as part of the consent agenda so the record is clear.

It is important to make sure that all members know what items belong on the agenda and how to move items to and from the consent agenda. For this reason, the chair should ensure that new members become familiar with this process when they join the board.

## Role of the Chair in Board and Commission Meetings

Board and commission members, staff, and the public look to the chairperson to provide leadership during the meeting. The chair should understand the issues before the board or commission, know and understand the philosophies of the fellow members of the board or commission, and be able to bring the board or commission to decisions on difficult or complicated issues. The chairperson should be able to do all of the following effectively:

- **Run a Meeting:** The chair is responsible for running an orderly meeting and conducting public business in a fair and timely manner. Everyone looks to the chairperson for leadership. The chair grants or denies members, staff, and the public the floor to speak.
- **Maintain Order:** The chairperson should not allow cheering, hissing, booing, or other demonstrations from the audience. Nor should he or she permit board or commission members to become rude, confrontational, or argumentative with one another or the audience. Members should not cut off one another or staff when they are speaking, nor monopolize the floor when granted by the chair. The chair should avoid grandstanding by any member, including him or herself.
- **Keep Business Moving:** It is the chairperson's job to keep business moving by bringing matters to a vote once thorough yet efficient debate has occurred. Avoid "rabbit holes" by calendaring side discussions to a future meeting date if they are within the board's purview.
- **Ensure Member Participation:** Board members who are newer, quieter, or not a licensed member of the profession may sometimes sink into the background. The chair should encourage participation by calling on them during debate or asking for their input. The chair may also assign them to perform research instead of leaning on the same vocal volunteer each time. By working on board projects outside of a meeting, these members may learn more and quickly come up to speed on topics important to the board.
- **Manage Public Testimony:** By using a sign-up list, the chairperson will know who wants to speak on items before the board or commission. If a large number of people wish to speak, the chairperson should set a time limit per speaker (usually the amount of time allotted for public comment divided by the number of testifiers). Rambling, irrelevant testimony should be discouraged, as should commentary from the public during board deliberation of an issue.
- **Use Parliamentary Procedure:** The chairperson needs to know enough parliamentary procedure to run the meeting. Someone else may serve as the parliamentarian, but the chairperson must have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
- **Tie Things Together:** The chairperson should have the ability to take into account public testimony, board or commission deliberations, and an understanding of the issues at hand when guiding the board or commission toward a decision.
- **Lead Without Bias.** The chair should avoid setting the agenda or manipulating debate on issues to suit their personal preference. Although the chair has a right to speak on a topic, if the chair feels strongly about an issue and cannot maintain objectivity in managing the discussion, they should ask a different person to chair the meeting during the debate on that topic. The chair should never dominate debates or discussions.
- **Implement Approved Actions:** The chairperson should have the ability to create an action plan and follow through with staff or other entities on the actions decided at the meeting. The chair

may need to contact members of the board to ensure they are aware of and working on their assignments to ensure they meet deadlines for upcoming meetings.

- **Uphold the Law:** The chairperson should guide the board to prevent decisions that are contrary to law and should strive to adhere to advice provided by its attorney. The chairperson should minimize the board's exposure to legal risk and seek its attorney's advice through staff as the need becomes apparent, checking the agenda to schedule the attorney's presence or tabling votes until the next meeting if needed. The chairperson may recess the meeting for a few minutes to confer with the board liaison or division management regarding inviting the board advisor or attorney to step in during a board meeting.

## Robert's Rules of Order Motions Chart

**Part 1: Main Motions.** These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. § indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate and vote	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

**Part 2: Incidental Motions.** No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

**Part 3: Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Board.** No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority w/notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

## VII. Effective Regulations

This section is intended to provide you with the purpose of regulations and a general, high-level overview of the State of Alaska regulations process. The full regulations process is explained in detail in the *Drafting Manual for Administrative Regulations*, which is located online at [http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/drafting\\_manual.html](http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/drafting_manual.html). The flow charts and narrative in this guidance will summarize the processes of board and division regulation adoption—keeping in mind the process is ultimately overseen by the Department of Law.

### Why Regulations and What Are They?

Under AS 44.62.640, a regulation encompasses every rule, regulation, order, or standard of general application, or any amendment, supplement, or revision of such rule, regulation, order, or standard. These are adopted by a state agency to implement, interpret, or specify the law that the agency enforces or administers, or to govern its procedure. Whether a document, regardless of its name, qualifies as a regulation under this chapter depends in part on whether it affects the public or is used by the agency in its dealings with the public.

However, it does not include forms prescribed by a state agency or instructions related to the use of those forms. Nonetheless, this provision does not limit the requirement for a regulation to be adopted under this chapter if needed to implement the law under which the form is issued.

In simpler terms, a regulation can be defined as a standard of general application or an amendment to such a standard. It is adopted by a state agency to implement, interpret, or specify a law, or to govern the agency's procedure. However, it does not cover matters relating to the agency's internal management. A regulation is considered valid if it affects the public or is used by the agency in its dealings with the public.

### How Do Boards Gain Regulation-Making Authority?

Statutes are state laws that authorize and set out the scope of a board or commission's governance authority of a licensing program. Statutes may also authorize and direct the division's management role in administering all licensing programs overseen by the division. A board's power to adopt regulations starts with the Alaska State Legislature. As part of its law-making power, the legislature may delegate, by statute, the authority to create rules and standards to executive branch agencies, boards, and commissions. These rules and standards are regulations, adopted by boards to supplement laws passed by the legislature and enacted into law.

Statutes often make it clear that the legislature expects the entity to adopt regulations by stating the agency "shall" adopt regulations to set program standards. Other times, statutes authorize but do not require regulations, by stating the agency "may" adopt regulations. A regulation has the force and effect of law only if the agency has the statutory authority to act and if it adopts, amends, or repeals the regulation using the proper procedure.

### Right-Touch Regulation

Right-touch regulation describes the approach first developed in 2010 by the Professional Standards Authority—the regulator for healthcare providers in the United Kingdom. It is not 'light-touch' regulation. It means looking at the level of risk to the public and identifying the most proportionate means to counter that risk.

Right-touch regulation means understanding the problem before jumping to the solution—while making sure that the level of regulation is proportionate to the level of risk to the public.

There are eight elements that sit at the heart of Right-Touch Regulation:

1. Identify the problem before the solution
2. Quantify and qualify the risks
3. Get as close to the problem as possible
4. Focus on the outcome
5. Use regulation only when necessary
6. Keep it simple
7. Check for unintended consequences
8. Review and respond to change

The department's Boards and Regulations Advisor has developed a Right-Touch Regulation curriculum and workbook based on the principles devised by the Professional Standards Authority. From time to time, it will be offered as a training opportunity for board members and staff, and it can be utilized as either a formal or informal part of a board's periodic regulation review process.

## Board Regulations Process

*simplified*



## Overview of the Regulations Process

The regulatory procedures for boards are set out in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) in AS 44.62.040 - 44.62.290. These procedures are designed to ensure the public is notified and afforded an opportunity to meaningfully comment on an action before it is adopted as a final regulation. These steps are outlined below and codified in the *Drafting Manual for Administrative Regulations* referenced above.

The division employs two Regulations Specialists who are trained to assist in drafting regulations and moving them through the adoption process. The department Boards and Regulations Advisor can assist the board in evaluating the need for regulations, the statutory foundation for the regulations, and options in moving forward with the process. At any point in the process, they may also request agency attorney advice independently or on behalf of the board.

The entire regulations process—from crafting the idea to the ultimate effective date—can take up to a year. This ensures adequate time is allowed for the board to fully explore options and develop the best regulation, for the public to engage through the formal comment process, and for the Department of Law to fully review and assist. Timeframes can fluctuate widely among projects. Delays can occur if the intent and outcomes of the board are not clearly presented, if the Regulations Section of the Department of Law is experiencing a heavy workload, if the project is lengthy or complex, or if there are procedural problems with how the project was handled. Planning well ahead of time is essential to ensuring crucial deadlines are met.

## Planning and Preparation

### Gathering Ideas

A regulation project begins with an idea for regulatory change. An idea may come through any number of sources: statute change, stakeholder suggestion, committee recommendation, shifts in industry education or practice standards, or others. In developing an idea, boards and regulatory staff are welcome to consult with the Department of Law to determine whether the concept for a regulation is necessary to effect the intended change and within the agency's statutory authority.

All discussion and decisions relating to the regulations project must be made by the board at publicly noticed meetings. The board is required to vote upon proposed changes to move forward to the next formal stage.

### Evaluating Need

As part of the drafting process, the board will identify the specific need or problem that the proposed regulation aims to address and ensure that the regulation aligns with the board's mission and statutory authority. When considering adopting a regulation, including repealing one, the board should take care to discuss the reasons why the change is important. The department has developed a Right-Touch Regulation presentation and curriculum to help boards understand the concept of harm reduction within the concept of regulatory governance. All regulations should be viewed through this lens. This evaluation process is discussed further in Chapter 4 on Decisionmaking.

### Consideration of Timing

After determining that a concept is appropriate for a regulation, the board should consider timing needs and deadlines for completing the project, including statutory or federal deadlines; division's timeline for

form development, license renewal dates, or other administrative impacts; complexity of the project requiring extensive legal review; availability of board to perform their role; public comment or filing windows, among others.

#### Examining Costs and Impacts on the Public

In addition to timing, a board must consider potential costs of a regulation project. These costs may be to the board or agency, public groups, or individuals such as licensees. Estimating costs in advance will help the agency complete the paperwork that accompanies the public notice. Included in the board's review should be the impact of additional time, paperwork, education, potential for public harm, or other impacts on licensees and the general public.

#### Soliciting Public Input

When a board identifies the need to propose a regulation to implement, interpret, or make specific a state statute, the board should begin organizing its collective thoughts on the matter at a publicly noticed meeting. If the subject matter is highly technical or complex, it may be helpful for the board to form a public working group from among its members. That group may engage in fact-finding for the purpose of sharing what it has learned with the entire board at an appropriate meeting.

#### **Drafting**

The maker of the motion to propose amendment, adoption, or repeal of regulations should provide the board with a written draft of the proposal. It is the board's responsibility to be certain that the record reflects what the board intended. This means that the board should articulate what it is hoping to accomplish with the project, and it should carefully review written drafts to ensure that the language conveys what the board intended. It is the board's job to provide at least the initial draft of language for a proposed regulation or amendment to regulation, including any relevant regulatory citations (such as 12 AAC XX.XXX). Clearly define the requirements, standards, or procedures that the regulation will impose. Use precise and unambiguous language to avoid confusion or misinterpretation in the process of translating the intent of the regulations into concise language that effectively implements, interprets, or makes specific the underlying law.

If it hasn't done so already, the board should ensure that staff has requested assistance from the division's regulations specialist. If needed, licensing staff or the regulations specialist may request Department of Law assign an agency attorney who is familiar with licensing issues to ensure that the proposed regulation complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and constitutional requirements. Legal counsel can also help ensure consistency with existing regulations and provide guidance on the regulatory process. Any legal involvement at this stage is referred to as pre preliminary legal review and does not replace the formal review process discussed below.

Part I of the "Project Opening Questionnaire" must be completed by the board, not staff, to ensure all potential licensee or industry questions and impacts are anticipated and answered as required by statute. The board can complete these together on the record, or they may find it more efficient to assign a member to complete these and submit to staff by a deadline to keep the process moving forward. The next step—sending to The Department of Law for file opening—cannot happen until all required items are sent to the Regulations Specialist: Excerpt of the minutes with motion to open a

regulations project; the draft language for the regulations project; and both Part I (completed by the board) and Part II (completed by staff) of the Project Opening Questionnaire.

### **File Opening and Department of Law Preliminary Review**

Once an initial draft has been created and is ready to move forward, the regulations specialist will open a file with the Department of Law's Legislation, Regulations, and Legislative Research Section. This starts the official administrative review. Through the Questionnaire, the board will need to tell the regulations specialist its upcoming meeting dates, when it would like to publish the public notice, the reason for any urgency, and the requested effective date. The regulations specialist must submit all notice documents to the Department of Law at this time, so the board should discuss them before moving forward with a project.

LAW's preliminary review is designed to ensure the regulation is within the scope of regulation-adoption authority, is consistent with statutes, is reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of the statute, is valid under the state and federal constitutions, and is technically correct. This investment at the beginning of the process will reduce the amount of review that was previously required at the end of the process. The preliminary review is expected to take at least 60 days; boards should plan for a longer window in case the review is delayed by competing priorities or availability of attorneys. The entire regulations process—from the time it is opened to adoption by the board—can take many months.

### **Public Notice and Comment**

Immediately following initial approval from the Department of Law, the regulations are ready to be published, which begins the public comment period. A significant step in the APA requires that the public receive notice of a proposed regulation and an opportunity to comment on a proposed regulatory action. This ensures that the public and interested parties—predominantly licensees and prospective licensees—are aware of the proposed changes affecting their programs and provides adequate opportunity to comment on them. By ensuring public notice and ability to comment, the APA's procedures support the public's vital role in the regulations process.

Under the APA, the public must have a minimum of 30 days to comment (either orally, in writing, or both) on proposed regulations. During the comment period, the staff must publish the FAQ worksheet using the information provided by the board on the Project Opening Questionnaire on the website, as well as answers to questions from the public on the proposed regulations received in writing unless the questions are received within 10 days before the close of the comment period; in that case the staff may, but is not required to, answer the questions. If the board intends to hear public oral testimony on the proposal, that date must be included in the public notice. If it is not included in the public notice, a subsequent notice must be completed before the oral testimony can be heard. A subsequent notice requires additional review and approval by LAW and adds additional costs to the board. It's important to carefully and thoughtfully work through each step with the assistance of your staff and the division Regulations Specialist.

Due to Alaska's small population, board members may be easily accessible to their licensees and public stakeholders. Board members must remember that comments on proposed regulations must be received as requested in the notice of proposed regulations.

Written comments that are received by the division regulations specialist during the public comment period as set out in the notice of proposed regulations are provided to the board to deliberate during a

public meeting. The board must review and take all comments into consideration before voting to adopt the proposal. Oral comments that are received by the board during the public comment period are included in this review.

Board members may not receive comments directly via email, text, in the clinic, at the lodge, in the hair salon, or in the grocery store. When well-meaning members of the public offer input, thank them for their interest but remind them that they should submit their comment as directed in the public notice.

### **Adoption**

After the public comment period, the board reviews and considers the feedback received. Based on the input, the board may choose to revise the regulation, withdraw all or part of the project, or proceed with the adoption process. If the board chooses to substantially amend its proposal, it must go out for another 30-day public comment period. (The Department of Law will review whether the amendments to the proposed regulations would require a new notice and comment period or if they are minor enough not to need additional public review.)

If there are no changes—or if the changes are minor and do not alter the meaning of the regulations—it may then be adopted by a board vote at a publicly noticed meeting, then forwarded for final review by the Department of Law.

### **Department of Law Final Review**

The Department of Law's role is to ensure that the regulations comply with legal requirements and are within the board's authority. If the regulations attorney does not approve the proposal, it will be returned for collaboration on how to become compliant. Further public notice, edits, or readoption may be required.

Once the regulations have been approved by the regulations attorney, the regulations are transmitted to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for filing.

### **Filing by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

Once signed by the Lieutenant Governor or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, the regulation will become effective in 30 days *unless* another effective date is specified in the adoption order or certification of adoption. The Lieutenant Governor can only return regulations to the agency if they are "inconsistent with the faithful execution of the laws" (AS 44.62.040(c)). Typically, once the regulation has been filed, the effective date is known and can be relied upon. After this 30-day period, the regulation will be published in the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC). The AAC is the official compilation of the state's regulations.

### **Effective Date**

The regulation becomes effective on the date specified in the adoption notice or as required by law. Most regulations become effective 30 days after filing. (If there is any question, the date is specified on the Lieutenant Governor's official filing notice.) It is important to communicate the effective date to affected stakeholders and ensure compliance with the new regulation.

## Posting Online Summary

The Regulations Specialist will file the text or a summary of the regulation on the Alaska Online Public Notice System. It will also be posted on the board's web site, and the board's statutes and regulations packet will be updated with the new language on the effective date of the new regulations. If regulations dramatically change the landscape of regulation, require compliance in a short window of time, or have been of particular interest to stakeholders, staff can email announcement to the interested party list and/or voluntary list serv, as applicable.

A typical board or commission regulations process can take from six months up to a year or more, depending on the effectiveness and efficiency of the board, the workload of the division regulations specialist, the complexity of the project, and how the project fits into the workflow of the agency and regulations attorneys with the Department of Law.

## Division Regulations

The division director may also draft and notice regulations through the same process, though the director is not required to hold a public meeting to deliberate or adopt final regulations. The same public notice provisions apply, and the director must consider all written comments received. When setting fees for licensing programs, the director will seek board input on proposed fees as required in AS 08.01.065. The director may adopt regulations that pertain to all licensing programs in general (known as Centralized Regulations) and may adopt regulations that direct the licensing programs in AS 08.01 that do not have a governing board or commission.

## Emergency Regulations

If a threat to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare requires immediate action, an agency may adopt an emergency regulation without first following the normal APA procedures of publishing notice and waiting for public comment. Emergency regulations are held to a minimum, however, because they take effect without the public having the opportunity to comment or receive advance notice of their effect. The agency must therefore look critically at whether (1) the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare is truly at risk, and (2) the use of the emergency regulation procedure is absolutely necessary. The agency must contact the Department of Law early on in this process to ensure that the regulations are within the agency's statutory authority and meet the emergency regulation standard set in AS 44.62.250. Before an agency may adopt an emergency regulation, an emergency finding must be approved by the Department of Law.

An emergency regulation remains in effect for no more than 120 days. If the agency does not make the emergency regulation permanent, the regulation expires and the version of that regulation in effect before the emergency regulation was adopted, if any, is automatically reinstated. Regardless of whether an agency intends to let an emergency regulation expire after the 120-day mark or make the regulation permanent, the agency must follow specific steps outlined in the *Drafting Manual*. If emergency regulations are deemed appropriate by the Department of Law, your regulations specialist, attorney, or department board advisor will walk the board through these extra steps.

## Conclusion

The regulations process in the State of Alaska involves careful planning, drafting, public engagement and adoption. Boards and the division work together, with assistance from the Department of Law, to ensure that the regulations align with the statutory authority and serve the public interest. By following

the established procedures and incorporating public input, the state can effectively implement and enforce regulations that promote the health, safety, and well-being of its people.

## VIII. The Investigative Process

An important and necessary function of the board or commission is to monitor and enforce compliance with the statutes and regulations governing a licensed profession. The process of denying or disciplining a license involves many areas of law, including the U.S. and state constitutions, the Administrative Procedures Act, case law, and both the centralized and specific statutes and regulations of a profession.

### Filing a Complaint

A complaint may be reported directly to the division. Sometimes a member of the public, or a licensee, may bring a complaint directly to a board member. When this happens, the board member should direct the complainant to contact the division and forward a summary of the contact to the division. (The email address [investigations@alaska.gov](mailto:investigations@alaska.gov) is useful to share in this situation.) All written complaints, or reports, alleging a violation of statute or regulations should provide a specific and detailed summary of the complaint. If available, the complaint should include any documentation, and list any potential witnesses. Anonymous complaints are not accepted.

A board or commission has jurisdiction over a complaint if the subject of the complaint falls within the scope of the board or commission's regulatory authority. Upon receipt, the complaint and evidence are reviewed by the investigator assigned to the program to ensure jurisdiction over the person named in the complaint and the alleged violation by that person. The investigator evaluates each complaint, gathers evidence, and interviews witnesses. This review takes into account informal guidelines established by the board or commission and the statutes and regulations of that specific practice area.

If the complaint does not appear to allege a violation that is within the board's jurisdiction, the division may close the complaint. If the complaint does relate to a statute or regulation of the board, an initial letter may be sent to the licensee against whom the complaint is filed. This letter provides notice of the complaint and allegations and may request records, an interview, or other response by the licensee.

Complaints or reports that present an immediate threat to public safety are given priority. The steps taken are determined on a case-by-case basis by the specifics of the allegations. This portion of the investigative process may be quite lengthy and may require additional information or evidence from the complainant, licensee, businesses, other governmental agencies or state boards, witnesses, or related parties.

### Conducting an Investigation

Investigators will collect pertinent information or evidence to prove or disprove an alleged violation. If the complaint is supported by evidence, it proceeds to investigation. Once an investigation is opened, the licensee is notified they are under official investigation by the division on behalf of the board or commission. This is an important step: Complaints can be unfounded or determined to be unsupported by evidence, and they are closed before becoming an official investigation, protecting the subject of the complaint from unwarranted repercussions in the community and with the board in their area of practice.

Once the case has been thoroughly investigated and there is a preponderance of evidence to either prove or disprove a violation occurred, the next step is determining an appropriate outcome. Typically, a

licensed board member is solicited to review the case, recommend whether a violation has occurred, and propose a course of action.

### **Highlights of Serving as a Reviewing Board Member (RBM)**

- A member who is licensed in the field of practice will usually have the professional experience, expertise, and judgment necessary to evaluate a complaint. This is one of the main areas of value that a board brings to regulation of the profession. If a member of the board does not have the credentials to effectively evaluate the matter, the investigator may engage an expert witness who does.
- It is critically important that the reviewing board member disclose any potential conflicts before taking the case. The investigator will perform a conflict check before the RBM begins work on a case. If information is revealed along the way that introduces a conflict, the RBM must immediately inform the investigator.
- When accepting a case review, the RBM agrees to prioritize the responsibility so the investigation does not draw out for a long period of time. Investigators typically ask for a case to be reviewed within 30 days. The RBM and investigator should be responsive to each other's questions. The only person the RBM should discuss the case with is the investigator and, possibly, division management, depending on the situation. The RBM should never contact parties to the matter or other board members regarding the case.
- The reviewing board member should ensure all factors are considered in their review and recommendation.
- An RBM may need to request recusal from deliberation and vote on an issue that he or she reviewed. This may not always be necessary or possible. After every case, the RBM should ask the investigator or board liaison for assistance in whether this applies to an individual matter.

In special circumstances, the division may include a panel of two board members or an expert in the field who is carefully screened for objectivity by the Chief Investigator and who agrees to maintain confidentiality. This review may result in a recommendation that more information be obtained, that the case be closed, or that the case continues forward. The board's liaison or review panel does not determine a final outcome; it simply reviews the complaint to determine whether the allegations, supported by uncontested or sufficient evidence, would warrant proceeding with disciplinary action even if contested by the licensee.

### **Disposition of Cases**

The board will meet as a quasi-judicial body in executive session or in a special meeting arranged solely to deliberate on the matter. Facts of the case that influence the board's decision will be provided to the board ahead of time so they can become familiar with the case and prepared to discuss. This is often provided in a memo to the board or contained in the body of the legal document the board is provided for review. The investigator and possibly the board's attorney will join the executive session.

If a case proceeds for board review, the board will be asked to:

- Review the facts presented
- Review the RBM's recommendation
- Evaluate a consent agreement, imposition of civil fine, accusation, or other documents prepared by the investigator based on the RBM's recommendation
- Determine whether they agree a violation did, in fact, take place

- Determine how to proceed with board action, including:
  - Asking more questions and returning to the investigator for additional information if they are not prepared to take action
  - Adopting, amending, or rejecting a consent agreement
  - Taking one of the disciplinary actions authorized in AS 08.01.075 (below) or in their specific statutes:

**AS 08.01.075. Disciplinary powers of boards.**

(a) A board may take the following disciplinary actions, singly or in combination:

- (1) permanently revoke a license;
- (2) suspend a license for a specified period;
- (3) censure or reprimand a licensee;
- (4) impose limitations or conditions on the professional practice of a licensee;
- (5) require a licensee to submit to peer review;
- (6) impose requirements for remedial professional education to correct deficiencies in the education, training, and skill of the licensee;
- (7) impose probation requiring a licensee to report regularly to the board on matters related to the grounds for probation;
- (8) impose a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000.

(b) A board may withdraw probationary status if the deficiencies that required the sanction are remedied.

(c) A board may summarily suspend a licensee from the practice of the profession before a final hearing is held or during an appeal if the board finds that the licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety. A person is entitled to a hearing conducted by the office of administrative hearings (AS 44.64.010) to appeal the summary suspension within seven days after the order of suspension is issued. A person may appeal an adverse decision of the board on an appeal of a summary suspension to a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) A board may reinstate a suspended or revoked license if, after a hearing, the board finds that the applicant is able to practice the profession with skill and safety.

(e) A board may accept the voluntary surrender of a license. A license may not be returned unless the board determines that the licensee is competent to resume practice and the licensee pays the appropriate renewal fee.

(f) A board shall seek consistency in the application of disciplinary sanctions. A board shall explain a significant departure from prior decisions involving similar facts in the order imposing the sanction.

Most cases are resolved through a consent agreement: An amicable settlement of a case between the two parties short of a public hearing. This type of settlement spells out agreed-upon obligations and responsibilities between the board and the licensee. The consent agreement is written by the division. To be effective, a consent agreement must be adopted by the board. Consent agreements may involve:

- reprimand
- revocation
- assessment of a civil penalty (fine)
- suspension (for a specific period of time)

- probation
- condition to take additional continuing education over and above the annual requirement
- restrictions on practice

If an agreement cannot be reached, or if the agreement is rejected by the board, the case is referred to division counsel—an Assistant Attorney General (AAG)—for review and possible litigation. The next step is to file an accusation charging the violations. If an accusation is filed, the licensee is entitled to a hearing. All involved parties may be requested to appear and testify at the hearing, conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) through an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). After the hearing, the ALJ issues a proposed decision.

The division’s counsel and the licensee (or the attorney for the licensee) may propose a different outcome in a document called a Proposal for Action. Once it has considered the proposed decision from the ALJ and the proposals for action from the litigants, the board may adopt, amend, or reject the proposed decision from the ALJ and issue its own decision. The board should state its reasons clearly. If the board changes the sanctions proposed by the ALJ, it must explain why. The board may request counsel of its own. Any final decision may be appealed to the superior court.

### **Investigations Are Confidential**

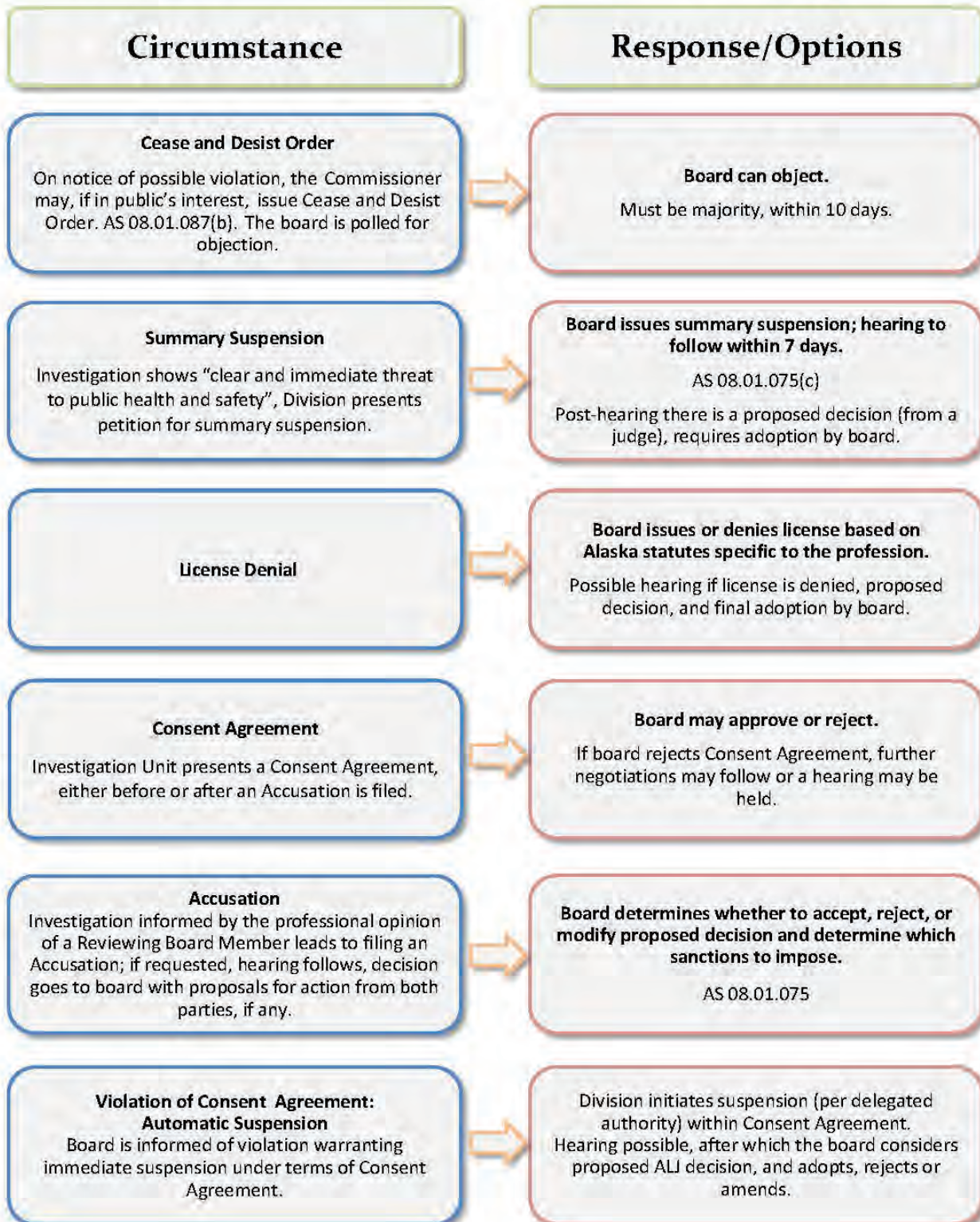
Investigations are required by statute to be kept confidential. The Alaska Public Records Act provides some exceptions that allow certain documents collected during discovery to be produced as public records. This often prevents the complainant, licensee, and the board from obtaining progress reports or information that may disclose the current status of an open investigation. Even the fact that an investigation is underway is protected. Cases often involve other agencies, businesses, and practices; disclosing information during an ongoing case can compromise the investigation, create conflicts for reviewing board members, or result in unnecessary hardship to the licensee.

Once disciplinary action is final, the final decision becomes public, and the final document is posted in the licensee’s [public file](#). It remains there permanently unless the board’s decision is overturned by a court of appeals. Certain licensing programs may require that this discipline is also reported to a national database for that profession.

### **Using Data Proactively**

If a board is able to maintain the protections of confidentiality and due process, it may find that aggregating data or following trends in complaints, investigations, and license discipline can be used to improve the quality of its regulation. This data can identify gaps in licensee or public understanding, confusing regulations, areas where the Alaska laws vary widely from standard practices in other jurisdictions, and even the need for augmenting awareness of ethical standards. The board may wish to review the investigative reports provided at regular meetings and periodically identify discuss complaint trends with its investigator as a quality control measure.

# Board/Commission License Action Options



## IX. Legislation and Legislative Audit

As a member of a professional licensing board or commission, you are responsible for being informed about potential legislative changes affecting your board's statutes and providing technical assistance to the legislature when needed. As gubernatorial appointees, boards communicate through division leadership to address technical questions and recommend statutory updates that serve the public interest. All communication to the Alaska State Legislature on behalf of a board must be coordinated with the Governor's Legislative Office through division leadership.

The Governor's Office remains neutral on legislation introduced by lawmakers, and boards are expected to do the same. When a board identifies technical concerns regarding active legislation, those concerns should be discussed and voted on in a public meeting. Afterward, the board should submit its written comments to staff who will forward them to the legislative director through the appropriate channels. Board input should remain limited to technical analysis or responses to legislative audits. If board testimony before the legislature is approved by the Governor's Legislative Office, the board needs to select and vote on a spokesperson at a public meeting, then division leadership will provide instructions to that individual to ensure the process is smooth and professional.

When a board determines that statutory changes are needed, it should work with division leadership to develop and submit a proposal to the Governor's Legislative Office. Legislative proposals are generally due in the summer, so it is important for boards to begin developing proposals as soon as needs are identified to allow sufficient time for review and approval.

### Legislative Audit

The [Division of Legislative Audit](#) (DLA) serves as one of the Legislature's most significant checks in the balance of powers with the executive and judicial branches of government. The Division's primary responsibilities are to provide transparency and hold state agencies accountable to state and federal laws. Audits inform the Legislature and the public about government operations.

The DLA is an audit agency, led by the Legislative Auditor, that serves as the State of Alaska's independent auditor. DLA was created pursuant to the Fiscal Procedures Act of 1955. The Division has offices in Juneau and Anchorage staffed by dedicated professionals, most of whom are licensed CPAs. The Legislative Auditor is a public officer authorized by the Alaska Constitution to lead the State's independent audit function. The audit function is conducted in accordance with Title 24 of the Alaska Statutes. All audits conducted by the Division are done in accordance with government auditing standards.

DLA performs external audits; that is, audits are performed by an auditor who is independent of the executive head of the government unit or agency being audited. All audits result in a published report that remains confidential until released to the public by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee. Four types of audits are conducted: single audits, special audits, sunset audits, and IT audits.

**The primary way professional licensing boards interact with the DLA is through the sunset audit process.** The 1977 Legislature passed a Sunset Law which requires DLA to conduct performance audits of boards, commissions, and agency programs subject to termination under [AS 44.66](#). The audit report,

along with other reports and testimony, is considered when determining if there is a continuing public need for a board, commission, or program.

Professional licensing boards are audited according to the schedule set by the Alaska State Legislature, which is based on the scheduled sunset dates found in [AS 08.03](#). The maximum number of years a board can be authorized before its next audit is eight years.

Approximately one year before the scheduled sunset date of each board, the assigned legislative auditor(s) will hold an opening conference with division management and the board chair, either together or separately. At this meeting, which is usually in the late spring, the auditor will review the process to ensure all parties are informed. The auditor will hold similar meetings once the field work has been completed and when the DLA has prepared a list of recommendations.

The auditor(s) will perform the audit by reviewing documentation of board meetings, licensing files, investigative files, and other records it may believe to be relevant to its review. They will ask questions and seek additional information from staff or board members, as necessary. Division management and the board chair should work independently with auditors to ensure each has the opportunity to provide the auditor with unvarnished information. A public officer may not interfere with the work of an auditor or seek to influence them in performance of their duties.

A determination by the DLA as to whether a board or commission has demonstrated a public need for its continued existence must take into consideration the following factors ([AS 44.66.050\(c\)](#)):

- (1) the extent to which the board or commission has operated in the public interest;
- (2) the extent to which the operation of the board or commission has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices that it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters;
- (3) the extent to which the board or commission has recommended statutory changes that are generally of benefit to the public interest;
- (4) the extent to which the board or commission has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of service, economy of service, and availability of service that it has provided;
- (5) the extent to which the board or commission has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions;
- (6) the efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board or commission filed with it, with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned, or with the office of victims' rights or the office of the ombudsman have been processed and resolved;
- (7) the extent to which a board or commission that regulates entry into an occupation or profession has presented qualified applicants to serve the public;

(8) the extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board or commission in its own activities and in the area of activity or interest;

(9) the extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgetary, or other changes are necessary to enable the board or commission to better serve the interests of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection;

(10) the extent to which the board or commission has effectively attained its objectives and purposes and the efficiency with which the board or commission has operated; and

(11) the extent to which the board or commission duplicates the activities of another governmental agency or the private sector.

For professional licensing boards, many of these functions are statutorily carried out by the division. If the final audit report finds a board to be deficient in those areas, it may be attributed to the division. The governor's office may be accountable for concerns about board appointments. The board chair, commissioner, and governor may all be asked to respond to questions and will be compelled to respond to the audit in writing twice prior to its release—once as a confidential preliminary communication, and finally as a response to the report.

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (LB&A), which is a joint committee of both the House and the Senate, provides oversight of the DLA. The audit is confidential until published by LB&A. Once published, usually in the fall, it is made available to the public. A board may review the preliminary audit report in executive session, if it wishes; once published, the board should discuss the report on the record at its next meeting and organize its strategies for testimony ahead of the coming legislative session.

Legislative committees or individual legislators may sponsor bills to reauthorize boards slated for termination. The legislature will require a telephonic presence by a board representative, as well as the division director, at every hearing. The board chair—or a member designated by the board to testify on its behalf—should work with division management to prepare testimony at every hearing in the House and Senate.

During a public hearing, the board and the director shall have the burden of demonstrating a public need for its continued existence or the continuation of the program and the extent to which any change in the manner of exercise of its functions or activities may increase efficiency of administration or operation consistent with the public interest. Based on the audit recommendations, hearings may run smoothly, or legislators may pursue specific issues raised by public testimony. Legislators often take the opportunity to familiarize themselves with aspects of the professions regulated by the board, so they may ask questions that are not directly covered in the report or address issues they are familiar with through constituents, news media, or other sources.

If a board faces serious recommendations, the legislature may reauthorize them for a very short period (such as two years) to allow time for improvement and another audit to verify the issue has been resolved. If the legislature chooses to sunset a board, there is a one-year wind-down period during which regulations will be adopted to transfer the board's authority to the division. The licensing

program will not cease; it will be managed by the division instead of the board, and the division will fall under a separate agency audit process. The board will cease to exist one year following the sunset date in statute. While it is an extreme action, termination of a professional licensing board has not happened in more than a decade. The legislature recognizes the value boards provide the public and usually seeks to aid the executive branch in finding solutions to any problems discovered through the audit process.

## X. Overview of State of Alaska Travel Policy and Division Procedures

When a person travels on behalf of the state, on behalf of the board, is traveling because of their position as a board member, or plans to engage in activities as a board member while in travel status, the travel must be managed by the State of Alaska. The purpose of travel policy is to provide parameters for approval of actual and necessary expenses incurred by travelers while traveling on state business, to ensure wise management of state resources, and to minimize risks to the state and its travelers. The travel policy of the State of Alaska is adopted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with [AS 39.20.160](#).

State agencies and travelers are required to comply with these policies whenever traveling on state business.

This guidance will clarify the process of funding, approving, and booking volunteer board member travel on behalf of the State of Alaska. While the Department of Administration sets the state's travel policy, it is the division's responsibility to manage costs and provide approval for state business travel for board members. Travel administration is comprised of a few major stages:

**Stage 1: Funding authority and availability:** The *authority* to spend must be granted by the legislature in the division's annual budget, which covers expenditure authority for the *entire* division, not specific boards or programs. The director must weigh all necessary and competing expenses across all 45 professional licensing programs, corporations, and business licensing in order to allocate them appropriately. Because the division, not the board, is statutorily responsible for all decisions pertaining to revenues and expenses, additional factors unrelated to your board may mitigate the director's ability to approve requested travel.

In addition to the *authority* to expend funds, *availability* of funds to cover expenses for travel on behalf of any program is dependent on that program's bottom line. If the program does not have sufficient funds to meet its obligations through the next biennium, board members are advised to defer travel requests until the deficit position improves.

**Stage 2: Approval:** When travel is requested, it goes through an approval process to ensure the request meets state policy and to create documentation for planning and risk management purposes. Approval from the division, department, and sometimes the governor's office is required. It also clarifies for the traveler the types of approved expenses so there is less opportunity for misunderstanding at the time of reimbursement. The approval process also establishes the minimum business itinerary or window of time the traveler is on state business to identify the business portion of travel. Board members may only enter travel status to represent the state after obtaining prior approval for the estimated costs through this standard process.

Information provided in order to approve travel includes the event description and agenda, dates, estimated costs for transportation, hotel, parking, registration fees, and

other allowable expenses. Also requested is the board's rank preference for this travel (as listed in the board's prior year annual report) and potential for third-party reimbursement, as well as whether personal deviation from the minimum business itinerary for the traveler's convenience will occur.

This stage requires the division to work with board members to set forth meeting dates, locations, and individual traveler preferences—such as driving instead of flying or personal deviation from the itinerary by staying an extra day.

**Stage 3: Reconciliation:** Once travel is completed, receipts are collected, and actual costs are reconciled. State policy requires receipts to be submitted within five days of travel. Any significant overages in approved cost from the original estimate will require *reapproval*—potentially delaying reimbursement. Additional review is also required when the traveler deviates for personal convenience. Travelers are required to approve any estimated reimbursement; please respond to the email requesting approval as soon as it is received so your travel process can be reconciled and completed.

**Stage 4: Reimbursement:** Final reimbursement of allowable expenses is remitted electronically to the traveler's bank account if you have direct deposit set up with the state; otherwise, it is sent by check and may take several weeks to process. Check your bank statement to confirm receipt of funds that have been direct-deposited.

The approval request and final travel authorization (TA) form are prepared by planners at the division travel desk. The final TA and attached receipts are audited and processed by the Division of Administrative Services. This is the division that provides centralized accounting, human resources, information technology, budget, procurement, and travel services and oversight for all agencies within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

The state travel policy (AAM 60) is available online through the Department of Administration, Division of Finance or through your board staff. Additional information on board-specific procedures is included to help make the process as smooth as possible. At any time, should you have questions or need to book travel, please contact the division Travel Desk.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
**TRAVEL DESK**

P.O. Box 110806, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806

Phone: 907.269.8160 - Fax: 907.465.2974

[08occlctravel@alaska.gov](mailto:08occlctravel@alaska.gov)

(For faster response, email instead of call.)

## Board Member Travel Procedures

Board members must utilize division staff to book their travel through the state travel contractor's online system. This will allow board members to travel without worrying about booking their own itineraries in accordance with state policy, personally fronting costs associated with airfare on their personal credit cards or wondering whether their costs will be reimbursed. Most itineraries will receive discounted rates because of state-negotiated contracts with Alaska Airlines and other hotel and car rental partners.

### Steps in Planning Your Official Travel Itinerary

1. To initiate this process, the board needs to establish that this expenditure is supported by the board. Please ensure your board has done the following at least six weeks before the date of travel:
  - a. Include the meeting, conference, or event in the board's Annual Report. Often, travel requests are to the same (or similar) events each year. Since there is not enough travel expenditure authority provided by the legislature for every board to take all the trips they may want, only the highest-ranked trips are likely to be approved. While the board may not know all the details months ahead of time, they may know the name of the conference sponsor and event, such as "Annual Educational Conference sponsored by the Council on Licensing, Enforcement, and Regulation." That would be important to include in the Annual Report.
  - b. Vote in a meeting to affirm the board's intent to send representatives to the event, and place on the record a ranked list of who those people are. This may include one or more board members and/or staff. A board member who was not endorsed by the board may be approved by the chair. This may displace one of the members who intended to travel. (Usually, this occurs when someone is no longer able to travel and someone is encouraged to attend in their place.)
2. Following the board meeting where the business reason for travel was discussed and travelers were approved, your board staff will complete a Travel Approval Request Form that explains the business reason for travel, requested travelers, and all known travel details. Approval from the division, department, and sometimes the governor's office is required.
3. Each traveler must complete the Travel Reservation Form for Board Members (attached). This helps us know important details like your Mileage Plan number, whether you prefer an aisle or window seat, and what hotel you prefer for your stay. Email this form to the Travel Desk ([08occlctravel@alaska.gov](mailto:08occlctravel@alaska.gov)).
4. Ensure the forms required by the state or federal government for reimbursement and per diem (attached) have been completed and returned to the proper agency listed on the form. Do not send to your board staff.
  - a. Substitute Form W-9 (TIN Verification)
  - b. Electronic Payment Agreement

The Electronic Payment Agreement is required only if you wish to receive your per diem and reimbursement electronically. Also, be advised the Internal Revenue Service requires the State of Alaska to issue 1099 forms when payments to individuals, partnerships, or limited liability companies for rents, services, prizes, and awards meet or exceed \$600.00 for the year.

5. Your travel planner will discuss any questions or concerns with you, then finalize the form according to the information you have provided in accordance with state policies. The travel approval will be emailed to you once it has final approval. There is no opportunity for personal deviation using this booking method. If you wish to deviate from the minimum business itinerary, staff should include this request in the initial travel approval request. Be sure you discuss with staff at the Travel Desk once you have received approval to travel.
6. The itinerary, including airline, hotel, and rental car confirmation numbers, will be emailed to you when booked. Staff will also provide the hotel with instruction to bill the division's credit card; however, since hotels must ensure they bill the proper party, the traveler must ensure that they were not charged for the room or taxes. Travelers are required to get a copy of the hotel receipt, even if they do not pay for the stay. Travelers may still be requested to provide a credit card for any room incidentals, such as movies, room service, telephone calls, etc., which are not covered by the state.
7. Turn in all receipts to the division within five days of trip completion to begin the reimbursement process. Any expenses not covered up front will be processed directly to the traveler's bank account once the traveler has completed all the forms mentioned in #4, above.
8. Once travel receipts have been reconciled, an estimated reimbursement e-mail will be sent to the traveler asking them to approve the expenses. Travelers must respond in order for the travel process to be completed and the traveler reimbursed.

### **Booking Travel Through a Third Party**

When associations are able to directly arrange travel for the division board members or staff, there are a few simple steps required to accept their offer:

1. Follow steps 1-5 above. Board members cannot make their own travel arrangements without first being approved to travel. Confer with the Travel Desk to ensure accurate coordination among parties.
2. Turn in all receipts to the division within five days of trip completion to begin the reimbursement process. Any expenses not covered up front will be processed directly to the traveler's bank account. Receipts are needed to track the amount of travel that is being covered by a third party for audit and ethics purposes.

### **Reimbursement of Qualifying Expenses by a Third Party**

Occasionally, an association will offer to reimburse the traveler for expenses incurred while on state business. For example, the profession's national organization may pay a \$1000 stipend to cover the cost of travel to the conference. Or, the association will pay all the airfare and hotel expenses for new board members.

This offer may be accepted under a few conditions:

1. Program staff must follow up with the association once the travel has been reconciled to ensure proper reimbursement occurs.
2. Checks may only be written and mailed to the State of Alaska, addressed to the division. Board members may not accept payment or reimbursement for any purpose and must immediately endorse any payment of this kind

over to the division travel desk for receipting. Reimbursement for authorized expenses will be issued by the State of Alaska.

3. The legislature typically authorizes a small amount of authority for the division to receive third-party travel reimbursements; these are credited to the board that incurred the expense. Any reimbursements over the authorized amount will be reported but not available to the boards to expend. This tracking is important as it may demonstrate the boards' ability to collect receipts above the authorized limit and allow the division to advocate for additional budget authority in future years.

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If you have questions about a specific scheduled trip or reimbursement, please contact the Travel Desk at 907.465.2550 or 907.269.8160 or by email at [08occlctravel@alaska.gov](mailto:08occlctravel@alaska.gov).

## Frequently Asked Questions About Travel

### **Before Traveling:**

**Q: I would like the travel planners to book my travel. What do they need to know before they can book?**

A: We will need the following information:

- Your name as it is written on a government issued form of identification
- Your birthdate
- Your mileage plan number, if any
- A preferred hotel in the city to which you are traveling
- A valid e-mail address so the travel itinerary can be sent to you
- An agenda for the meeting or conference—even a draft is helpful

**Q: When you book my travel, what are the rules?**

A: All state travel rules apply, regardless of whether we act as your agent. However, booking your flight, hotel, rental car, or other travel is a commitment through the state travel agency. So, keep in mind that non-business-related changes and no-shows may result in additional fees, and you may be asked to reimburse the state for those types of avoidable fees.

Unless it has been pre-approved, we can only book the minimum business itinerary. This means that only the lowest ticket class fare for the most direct route will be purchased. We cannot book travel for spouses or other guests. We also will generally only use approved State of Alaska vendors, as we will get the best state negotiated deals on hotels, airfare, and rental cars. This means lower travel expenses for your licensing program.

*Alaska Statute 39.20.140(b) requires that the state pay no more than "the lowest ticket class fare for the most direct route." (AAM 60.050)*

**Q: If you book my hotel but the hotel asks to see the credit card, what should I do?**

A: You can have the hotel call one of your travel planners to confirm the credit card number with them. Your travel planners are available Monday-Friday 8:00am- 5:00pm at either 907-465-1071 or 907-465-2591. You may be asked

to provide a personal card for incidentals, since the state will not pay for amenities such as room service, tips, mini-bar, etc.

**Q: I want to mix my board business trip with pleasure. How can I do this?**

Regardless of who books the travel, we need to know if you are deviating from the business itinerary before your trip is submitted for division approval. Please let the Travel Desk or your board staff know if you are deviating as soon as the meeting is being planned. If your original travel plans change, please let your program staff know as soon as possible so they can request reapproval of the trip. If the cost of personal itinerary is greater than the cost of the minimum business itinerary, you need to book the trip yourself and work with the Travel Desk for reimbursement of qualifying business expenses.

Unapproved deviation from the minimum business itinerary may result in additional costs that you were not anticipating, and the state cannot cover that portion of your travel expenses. For example, if the board meeting ends at 2:00 p.m. and you want to stay in Anchorage until the following afternoon, you will be responsible for the hotel, meals, and difference in flight cost. Any rental cars approved for state business use must be turned in at the time of the first flight after the meeting ends. Keeping the car longer may incur personal expenses, and you may not be covered in case of an accident.

If you are planning your own travel, we still need to know the difference in prices between the business itinerary and the deviation that you are taking before you travel. Please provide your board staff with a flight itinerary for both the business itinerary and the deviation. If we do not receive the business itinerary, the travel planner will obtain a quote for the lowest fare currently available. This may result in a lower reimbursement than you were expecting.

**Q: What are the rules for renting a car when I travel for the state?**

A: When necessary, the rental of a car may be authorized for travelers in travel status according to the minimum business itinerary for the trip. The estimated cost for the rental car must be included in the approval request prior to travel. The cost and intended use of the car must be considered in determining the size and type of car to rent. The State of Alaska supports a mid-size or smaller car rental. Rental of a car larger than mid-size may be allowed when several travelers are traveling together or circumstances require the use of a larger car. Such situations must also be documented on the completed travel authorization. Planning ahead is recommended.

When a rental car is desired, but not required for state business, it is considered personal deviation. A traveler who submits a receipt for a rental car will receive reimbursement for ground transportation for the minimum business itinerary.

**Q. I don't want to stay at the hotel that is closest to the meeting location. What are my options?**

A. You will be booked at a state-contracted hotel that most closely meets the meeting's minimum business itinerary. There are often several hotels close to the facilities most used for meetings—the Atwood Building in Anchorage and the State Office Building in Juneau.

If you prefer to stay at a hotel outside of walking distance, we will book the hotel mentioned in your written request as long as it has a contract with the state and is under \$300 per night. You will be responsible for any amount over the standard hotel. If it requires one, a rental car or taxi between the hotel and meeting location will be considered

personal deviation, and you will be responsible for any amount over the customary ground transportation. If it is unsafe or impractical to walk due to weather, darkness, or other situations, ground transportation will be reimbursed.

**Q. I want to stay an extra day at the meeting location. Can you still book my flight?**

A. Yes, and the difference in cost will be deducted from your reimbursement. If the difference is over \$100, then you may opt to purchase your own ticket and receive reimbursement for the flight listed in the minimum business itinerary.

**After Traveling:**

**Q: What documentation do I need to turn in to be reimbursed?**

A: Board staff can provide you with a travel reimbursement envelope to help keep your receipts together. Because you are paid a state Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE) rate, you do not need to submit meal receipts unless a third-party reimbursement agreement requires it.

Within **FIVE** days of completion of travel, please submit:

- Airport receipt and boarding passes or actual itinerary
- Hotel receipt(s)
- Taxi receipt(s)
- Rental car receipt(s)
- Parking receipt(s)
- If you went to a conference, we will need a final meeting agenda and a registration fee receipt (if you paid for it).

**Q: What if I do not have a receipt for my taxi ride?**

A: You will be reimbursed up to \$75 for any qualified expense without a receipt. This means if you took a taxi to the airport and back but forgot to get a receipt, you will only get \$75 total for the entire trip. Most taxis cost around \$20-\$30 one way, so it is always a good idea to remember to get the receipt. Please note that taxis for food and entertainment are not reimbursable—only transportation to/from the meeting location or hotel and airport.

**Q: The state booked my travel. Do I still need to get a hotel receipt?**

A: Yes, we still need to make sure there were only charges that the state allows to be made on the state credit card. If a third party is paying for the hotel, we will still need a receipt to track those expenses for audit and ethics purposes. Please remember that if you had the state book your travel, there should be no taxes on the bill when traveling within Alaska. Check to ensure that room service, mini-bar, fitness, or other hotel charges are not settled to the state credit card. Look over the hotel receipt carefully before checking out and ask for the bill to be split, if necessary.

**Q: What is “mileage,” and why do you need my physical address?**

A: You are eligible to request reimbursement for the mileage between your house or place of work to the airport and back if you live more than 50 miles from the airport/meeting location. In order to give you the correct mileage, we need the physical address of your house or place of work so that we can have an accurate calculation. Please make sure to include a note with your receipts if you drove to the airport from a different location than you usually do so that we can give you the correct reimbursement for mileage.

**Q: I drove to the board meeting. Why am I not getting reimbursed for all the mileage between locations?**

A: If the amount of the mileage is greater than what a plane ticket would cost, you will only be reimbursed for the amount of the minimum business itinerary plane ticket. Also, reimbursement is only available to/from your “duty station,” which is the city in which you claim as your primary location. So, if you are driving (or flying) from a different location, you will receive reimbursement for the lesser of the two legs. For example: If you live in Anchorage but are flying to a Fairbanks meeting while on vacation in Seattle, you will only receive reimbursement for the value of the ANC-FAI flight, unless your actual expense is lower.

**Q: I live in the city that the board is meeting in. What am I reimbursed?**

A: You may request reimbursement for meals for the time when you are at the board meeting, which is typically lunch. You are also reimbursed for parking if applicable, but remember to get a receipt. Please remember to give the travel planner your exact physical address so you are reimbursed accurately.

**Q: I took a trip where part of the travel is being booked or reimbursed by a third party. What do I need to turn in?**

A: We need to know the amount the third party paid for airfare and hotel and need all the receipts for travel even if some or all expenses are being paid for by a third party. This is required for state auditing purposes. All expenses must be settled between the Travel Desk and the third party after your travel has been finalized. Board members are not allowed to accept payment from third parties. All payments must be made to the State of Alaska, and any checks to board members must be turned in to the office immediately. Please do not submit receipts directly to the third party; division staff will handle this.

**Q: How do I know how much per diem I will be reimbursed?**

A: Per diem is determined by the minimum business itinerary and how long you are in travel status during mealtime portions of the day (see chart below). If you are traveling in-state, you will be reimbursed using the state authorized per diem (also called M&IE) rate. If you travel out of state, you will receive the federal rate for your destination. The first and last days of travel will be paid a flat 75% of the daily per diem.

**Q: I was only able to attend the meeting for a few hours. Will I be reimbursed?**

A: To be eligible, you must be in travel status during the meal allowance period for at least three consecutive hours to receive reimbursement for that meal and the daily incidental amount.

**Other Questions:**

**Q: I am a volunteer—not an employee of the State of Alaska. Why do I need to follow your rules?**

A: Board and commission members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. When you are performing board business, you represent the State of Alaska. When you travel for the State of Alaska, you are treated like an employee and thus must follow the same rules that an employee must follow.

*The travel policies of the State of Alaska are adopted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with AS 39.20.160. State agencies and Travelers are required to comply with these policies whenever traveling on state business and are prohibited from adopting their own policies that differ from statewide policies without the approval of the Commissioner of Administration. (AAM 60.010)*

**Q: How do I know that the trip I want to take is “state business”?**

The term “state business” applies when the purpose of the trip can be reasonably related to the person’s role as a board member. This relationship may not always appear black-and-white, such as traveling to represent the board as a delegate. The division will look for elements such as whether the event that is primarily marketed to or attended by members of state boards; whether the board member would otherwise be attending if not for his or her service on the board; and other reasonable connections between board service and the event.

**Q: Travel planners use a lot of terms that I do not know. What do they mean?**

A: Here is a list of commonly used terms that are used for travel:

- Travel Planner: Individuals within each department that support travelers by making travel arrangements, explaining policies, ensuring travel is approved prior to purchase, and ensuring reimbursement occurs timely after travel is complete.
- Traveler: A person employed by the state, a board member, or volunteer that travels for state business outside their duty station.
- M&IE: Meals and incidental expense allowance. Incidental expense includes tips and other personal costs of travel. Also known as *per diem*.
- Residence: The location, or within 50 miles thereof, where the traveler maintains their primary dwelling.
- Duty Station: The city, town, or village within 50 miles of where the traveler spends the major portion of their working time.
- Travel Authorization (TA): The form that must be completed to show travel related expenses. This is completed by the travel planner.
- Minimum Business Itinerary: Travel plans that fit with the state-authorized business trip, without any personal travel.

**Q: Where can I find more information on travel?**

A: We are glad you asked! Please visit <http://doa.alaska.gov/dof/travel/index.html>. Here you can find more FAQs and all of the travel policies you may ever want to know. The best way to contact any of the planners at the division Travel Desk is by e-mailing [08occlctravel@alaska.gov](mailto:08occlctravel@alaska.gov).

## XI. Professional Licensing Finances: How Do They Work?

The division, including the business licensing and corporations sections, is authorized revenues and expenditures in the budget adopted annually by the Alaska State Legislature. The division's annual budget is published by the Office of Management and Budget; fiscal year 2023 is shown below as an example in Figure 1 as the *Final FY23 Enacted Operating Budget*. Once the budget is signed into law by the Governor, it goes into effect for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Any adjustments to the current year's budget are adopted as incremental or decremental supplements by the legislature during Legislative Session. In the table below the amounts are in thousands, e.g., multiple by 1,000 to get the actual dollar figure.

**FIGURE 1: FY23 CBPL OPERATING BUDGET (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS):**

<b>Component:</b> Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (2360)			
<b>RDU:</b> Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (117)			
	<b>FY2022 Management Plan + Supps (19366)</b>	<b>FY2023 OMB Conference Comm Track (19330)</b>	<b>FY2023 HB281 Final Enacted (19383)</b>
1000 Personal Services	10,458.8	10,153.5	10,153.5
2000 Travel	269.5	269.5	269.5
3000 Services	6,787.5	6,720.5	6,720.5
4000 Commodities	143.9	83.9	83.9
5000 Capital Outlay	7.4	7.4	7.4
7000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
8000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,667.1</b>	<b>17,234.8</b>	<b>17,234.8</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	1,934.6	1,198.3	1,198.3
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)	1,614.5	1,607.9	1,607.9
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)	1,022.8	1,035.1	1,035.1
1040 RE Rec Fnd (DGF)	297.4	301.1	301.1
1108 Stat Desig (Other)	32.6	32.6	32.6
1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)	12,765.2	13,059.8	13,059.8
<b>Funding Totals:</b>			
<b>Unrestricted General (UGF)</b>	<b>1,934.6</b>	<b>1,198.3</b>	<b>1,198.3</b>
<b>Designated General (DGF)</b>	<b>14,677.1</b>	<b>14,968.8</b>	<b>14,968.8</b>
Other	1,055.4	1,067.7	1,067.7
Federal	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Positions:</b>			
Permanent Full Time	100	102	102
Permanent Part Time	0	0	0
Non Permanent	0	0	0

The division's operating budget is annually around \$17 million; however, the division receives very little general funds from the legislature. Receiving general funds was a temporary way to offset licensing costs during the pandemic. Instead, the division is granted authority to spend the funds collected through licensing fees. This authority to collect fees is indicated in Figure 1 as 1156 Rcpt Svcs (Receipt Supported Services, e.g., licensing fees). The total expenditure authority includes all aspects of administration of all professional and business licensing programs, board activity, corporation registration, and investigation expenses.

Licensing program revenues and expenditures are tracked in the accounting system for each license type. However, the total spending authority is shared among all division activities. Each licensing program does not have its own budget, rather the division uses cost accounting to manage expenditures and fee setting authority to increase and decrease fees as needed while staying within the division's total authority.

Spending authority gives the green light to expend revenues collected through licensing fees up to the stated limit in each functional area (numbers on the left are the account code series):

1000 Personal Services:	Payroll and benefits for division staff (licensing, investigations, administration)
2000 Travel:	All travel expenses for board members, staff, and investigators
3000 Services/Contractual:	Agreements with other agencies to perform services outside the division's expertise, including LAW, OAH, fingerprinting by DPS, inspections by DEC and DOLWD, etc.  Contracts with vendors to provide services outside the state's purview, such as printer maintenance, professional testing, program-specific consulting, board memberships, advertising meetings, postage and mailing
4000 Commodities/Supplies:	Consumable supplies, such as paper, pens, envelopes, and staples
5000 Equipment/Capital Outlay:	Major durable purchases, including computers, desks, and office equipment

These functional areas shown in the division budget are the same as board members receive in the Quarterly Schedules of Revenues and Expenditures for their licensing programs and in the division's Annual Report to the Legislature, the summary of which is included in this report. (The entire report, including individual licensing program detail, is published quarterly on the [Division Reports](#) web page.) This consistency allows board members to compare how their expenditures fit within the division's overall spending authority—including all expenses for professional licensing functions and investigations for 45 programs, corporations and business licensing, and administrative support for each of these sections of the division.

### **Professional Licensing Fee-Setting Process**

The division is tasked in statute (AS 08.01.050) with proper administration of licensing fees, revenues, and expenditures. The state's professional licensing activities are funded wholly by "receipt supported services." This means that by statute, all costs must be covered by licensing fees.

State law delegates the responsibility for fee-setting to the division, which in turn shall consider the board's recommendations when proposing changes to that program's fees. It requires the division to "annually review each fee level to determine whether the regulatory costs of each occupation are approximately equal to fee

collections.” The annual review informs fee-setting for the biennial licensing period—a cycle that, by design, collects a program’s significant source of revenue only once every two years.

Because AS 08.01.065 requires the division to assess fees that approximate the cost of that particular licensing program, boards should not maintain too large a roll-forward surplus or carry too extreme a deficit. If a licensing program collects a higher fee amount than needed, those funds carry forward within the program from one fiscal year to the next. The surplus may provide a future benefit to the licensees by allowing fees to be maintained or lowered and for use to offset ongoing program-specific expenses. Conversely, if the amount collected is not adequate to cover expenses, that deficit carries forward as a liability for the program the next fiscal year. This often results in fee increases for the next renewal or—if the deficit is significant—the deficit can be amortized through incremental increases over multiple licensing periods.

When licensing fees are set by the division in regulation, the most important criterion is the cost of running the licensing program. Alaska’s “economy of scale” means that providing the same customer-facing services, legal processes, and staffing levels costs more than other jurisdictions. Alaska may have ¼ the number of licensees to cover the same foundational services, so the cost per licensee will necessarily be higher in this state. The board can offer the division insight into market forces that inform fee-setting, which the director can consider in the regulation process.

### **Board and Commission Review of Fiscal Documentation**

Your board’s staff liaison will include any updated recent documentation of the board’s most current finances in your meeting materials. In your board meeting packet, you will receive:

- Quarterly Schedule of Revenue & Expenditure (i.e. the board’s quarterly report)
- Breakout of direct program expenditures

The fourth quarter report will contain all year-end revenue and expense information, including the final annual indirect allocation, as well as additional fiscal back-up documentation.

Board meetings may happen more frequently than new reports are published, which may result in a meeting without updated financial information. Please keep that in mind as meetings are scheduled.

Report publication schedule:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (July-September) = Reports ready the 15th of November
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (October-December) = Reports ready at the end of January
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (January-March) = Reports ready at the end of April
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (April-June) = Reports ready mid-October

Due to the statewide year-end financial close-out process, the raw data to produce final end-of-year reports becomes available September 1. Reporting for the various agencies within the department then requires additional time, so a little “radio silence” between May and October is necessary. Once these data are final, though, final reports will be issued, followed shortly by each program’s first-quarter report.

When final year-end reporting is complete, each board member will receive a copy via email from their staff liaison, and these documents will also be included in board packets for the first regular meeting following this report. The division requests a little more time at the subsequent board meeting to walk the year-end documents, including how indirect expenses are calculated.

### **Direct Expenses**

Direct expenses are incurred specifically on behalf of the licensing program in implementation of the administrative and investigative responsibilities enumerated in statute to the division and/or a board appointed by the Governor. These expenses are broken out by non-investigative and investigative expenses.

Personal services charges (account code 1000) include the salaries and benefits of division staff working directly on behalf of a program—typically a licensing examiner, a supervisor, and an investigator. Some programs may also directly utilize the services of an office assistant, project assistant, regulations specialist, paralegal, or executive administrator. Many licensing programs share staff, so only the time actually worked on their activities is charged to that program’s code. This is usually accounted in 15-minute increments on an employee’s time sheet.

Travel expenses (2000) for board members, licensing staff, and investigators working in support of a specific licensing program are charged to that program. Travel through the state system requires adherence to the state travel policy, which is outlined in a separate chapter. Travel arranged directly through associations after obtaining pre-approval from the CBPL director will not reflect in a program’s 2000 line of expenses. However, travel reimbursed to the state will show up as “allowable third-party reimbursements” on your program’s quarterly report.

Contractual expenses (3000) include services provided by agencies outside the division. These costs predominantly represent advice provided by an attorney with the Department of Law in conjunction with board meetings, regulations, enforcement, or appeals of board decisions through the Office of Administrative Hearings or appellate courts. They may also include expenses for licensing examinations, facilities usage, expert witnesses, credit card fees, FedEx, and other similar contracts required to support the mission of the program.

Supplies (4000) and equipment (5000) used for a program are usually fairly minimal and may include computer technology, office supplies, and other tangible resources requested by a specific employee to meet the needs of their program(s). Equipment and supply requests are reviewed by a supervisor and purchased by the department through processes required by the state’s procurement code.

### **Indirect Expenses**

Indirect expenses are services and expenses that are not directly attributable to a singular program or profession. Within the Division of Corporations, Business & Professional Licensing (CBPL), costs meeting this criterion are charged to one administrative code, then allocated among the two revenue-generating units of the division: (1) Corporations and Business Licensing and (2) Professional Licensing.

CBPL's indirect costs include:

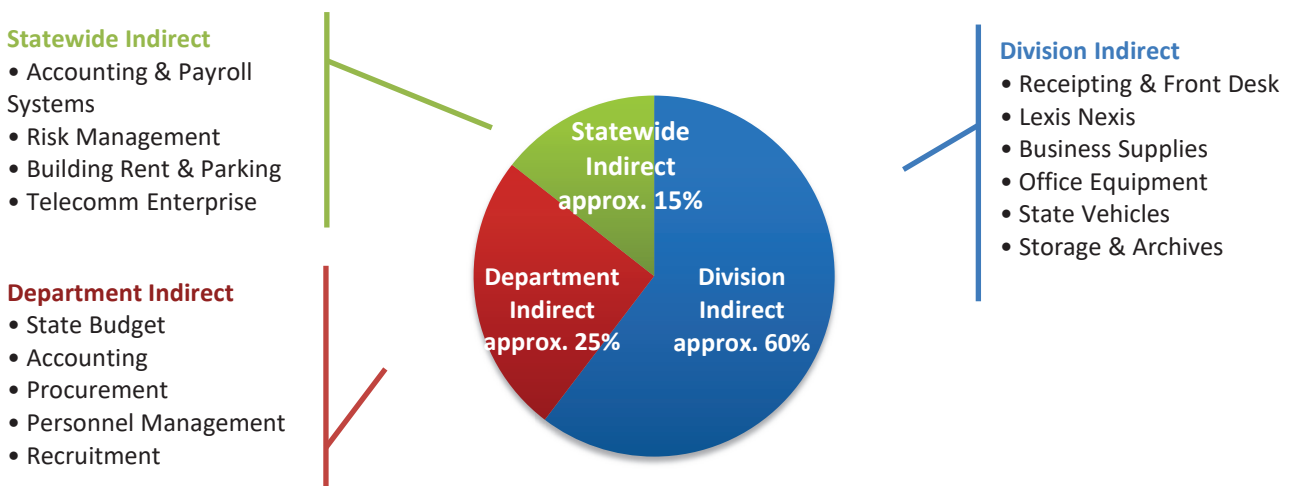
- Personnel costs for CBPL division management, front desk staff, and certain employees performing services for multiple programs that would be excessively burdensome to track by program.
- Travel for management that is not directly chargeable to a singular program.
- Various services and commodities used by all programs, such as software and database subscriptions, offsite records storage, purchase/lease and maintenance of printers and copiers, and other shared supplies and equipment.

It is more cost-effective for the division to share certain central resources with other agencies in the department and across the state. Department cost allocations, to which every department agency contributes, include services of the Commissioner's Office and the Division of Administrative Services (DAS). Costs are distributed equitably in accordance with a plan approved by the Office of Management and Budget and reviewed annually by the division and department fiscal teams.

Included in this indirect allocation are:

- Department-wide functional support areas, including fiscal oversight and accounting, network services and support, software programming and support, human resources, and procurement
- Statewide core costs for services that every state agency receives, including payroll, human resources, risk management, accounting systems, mail services, state-owned building rental, parking garages, Microsoft licenses, enterprise computer services, computer anti-virus protection, telecom support services, and virtual private networks, ADA management and compliance, among others in Figure 2:

**FIGURE 2: BREAKDOWN OF INDIRECT ALLOCATION TO CBPL:**



## Indirect Expense Allocation Methodology

The division has adopted several reporting mechanisms that ensure board members, licensees, and the public receive transparent fiscal details. One area clarified through this process was to codify a reasonable, defensible, justifiable method of allocating indirect expenses to the division from the state and department levels—and then within the division across the work units and various licensing programs. This deep and regular analysis of indirect costs results in implementation of three indirect allocation methodologies:

- 1) Allocating costs, both statewide and departmental, to agencies based on PCN, or position, count. Wherever possible, the division should be consistent with the statewide and department allocation methodology. This methodology is based on percentage of time coded to each program; these percentages are driven by payroll reports for each position.

Examples of CBPL indirect expenses now allocated by PCN count are indicated by account code; a full explanation of each line of account code can be found on the Department of Administration's website. A high-level report is provided in board reports.

- 2) Allocation of personal services costs for administrative and accounting activity during high-volume renewal cycles. An annual review of transactions by fiscal revenue provides an accurate allocation of administrative and fiscal staff time based on the number of transactions processed for each program in the department's receipting system.
- 3) Allocation of costs based on percentage of licensees for the licensing program/board. Many expenses are scalable according to the size of the licensing program. Where applicable, a program with more than 5,000 licensees will be charged more than a program with 500 licensees for the service.

These allocation methodologies and the resulting indirect costs are provided in writing to each board in the fall after the annual fiscal year is closed out. A verbal report by division management is offered to each board as part of the next meeting's division update. Board members are encouraged to read the reports, attend the meetings where explanations are provided, and ask questions at any time.

## XII. Evaluating Your Board...and Yourself

Feedback is the gift of awareness. Without awareness, boards have no real knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses, successes and failures, realities and perceptions, or positive and negative impacts.

How easily could your board fall into one of these situations without realizing it:

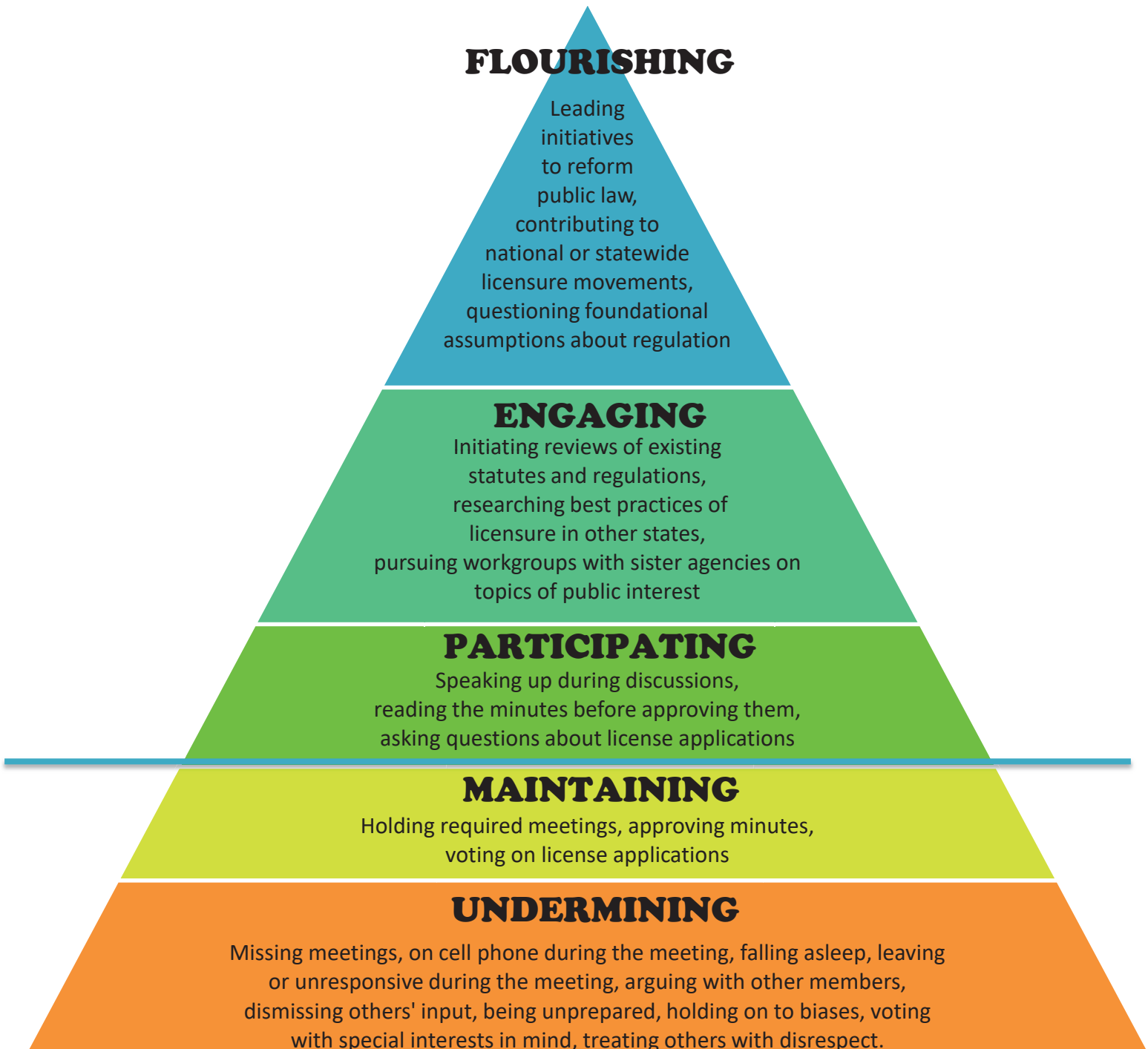
- The chair adjourns, praising the members for an extremely efficient meeting. The next week, the chair discovers that a hasty deliberation and quick vote just to get to lunch on time resulted in the board's passage of a decision that violates state law. All activity on the issue has to stop until the attorney can meet with the board the following month, secure their withdrawal of the vote, and ensure that any replacement action is legal.
- Members who are licensees of the profession they govern are deliberating on scope of practice issue by using jargon and terminology specific to specialized practice. Instead of explaining and providing supplementary material to the public member, they railroad him into voting for something he hasn't had the opportunity to learn about.
- A board member takes great pride in her success as a professional—however, she shuts people down midsentence, solicits feedback from friends in the public gallery during the business session, and pressures the chair to change the agenda midday because she wants to get to a certain topic she cares about. Her personality is so offensive that several members are considering resigning from the board.
- During a long, drawn-out discussion, two board members turn on their cell phones and disengage from the discussion. Once the chair requests their input, they jump in with active support for the same controversial viewpoint. A member of the public notices this and files a complaint with the Ombudsman that they were texting about the vote, thus violating the Open Meeting Act. The controversial vote wins, the board is sued, and the members' cell phones are subpoenaed and confiscated.

Tough situations can and will arise during service on a regulatory board or commission. These types of surprises, however, can be avoided if members invest in regular, *active* evaluation of board practices and of their own contributions to the process.

Simply filling out the evaluation form is not enough to qualify as active evaluation. Analysis of the responses and communication with members about their needs and contributions deepens the experience of individual members, sowing the ground for a more fertile harvest of ideas, insights, and outcomes.

Following are two evaluation forms that boards and commissions are encouraged to use after each meeting or at least quarterly to ensure awareness becomes the cultural norm. The OnBoard meeting platform also offers a meeting evaluation function. This is an easy entry into the exercise of creating a meaningful feedback loop.

## Chambers' Hierarchy of Effective Regulators



## MEETING EVALUATION

Board/Commission: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Goal	Agree	Needs Improvement	Suggestions for Improvement
1. The agenda was clear, supported by the necessary documents, and circulated prior to the meeting.			
2. All board members were prepared to discuss materials sent in advance.			
3. Documents were clear and contained needed information.			
4. A variety of opinions was expressed and issues were managed in a respectful manner.			
5. The chair guided the meeting effectively and members participated respectfully and responsibly.			
6. Next steps were identified and responsibility assigned.			
7. All board members were present.			
8. The meeting began and ended on time.			
9. Meeting accommodations were satisfactory.			
10. Presentations/interaction with public and guests was appropriate, productive, and efficient.			
11. The board had enough information to make good decisions on issues.			
12. The objectives of the meeting were met or appropriately tabled until a subsequent scheduled meeting.			

Other Comments (What went well, what needs to be done better next time):

## Board/Commission Member Self-Evaluation

Indicate the degree to which you think you meet each of the following expectations. Follow by completing the Personal Action Plan, then sign and date.

E: Excellent   S: Satisfactory   NI: Need Improvement   I: Inadequate   UR: Unable to Rate (indicate why)					
	E	S	NI	U	UR: Why?
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>					
I know and understand the board’s mandate, mission, and vision.					
I know and understand the statutory requirements related to the board.					
I know and understand the regulatory framework of the board.					
I am conversant and knowledgeable of the issues before the board and facing its stakeholders.					
I understand the distinction between the board’s governance and division’s management roles.					
I understand and utilize the board’s processes for decisionmaking.					
I understand and adhere to the board’s processes for communication with each other, with the division, and with stakeholders.					
<b>PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION</b>					
I review all board meeting material sent before the meeting, and I am able to demonstrate a reasonably comprehensive knowledge of the material during the meeting.					
I attend and fully participate in all meetings.					
I contribute fully to board discussions and debates and participate in its decisions by voting unless formally recused by the chair.					
I facilitate consensus building and commitment towards the board’s mission and its implementation.					
<b>CONDUCT</b>					
I abide by the board/state codes of ethical conduct and support my fellow board members in meeting this standard.					

I treat all members of the board, staff, and guests with respect.					
I raise issues in a respectful manner that encourages open discussion.					
I understand and respect the power, authority, and influence associated with my role as a board member and do not misuse this trust for personal gain.					
I avoid situations that may pose or be perceived as having a possible conflict of interest.					
I disclose all potential conflicts of interest, whether financial or relating to ex parte communication, in writing to the chair and on the record at the beginning of a public meeting.					
<b>DECISIONMAKING</b>					
I always act objectively and in the best interests of the public.					
I engage in decisionmaking that is within the purview of the board.					
I consult statutes and regulations to ensure I am following the law.					
I am fair, impartial, and unbiased in my decision making.					
I am flexible in my thinking; I listen to the perspective of my fellow members prior to determining my final vote on any matter.					
I consider the perspectives, input, and suggestions received on proposed regulations during the written or oral public comment period before voting.					
I base my decisions on all the facts at hand and strive to be consistent when facts are similar. When inconsistent with past decisions, I state my reasons on the record.					
I redirect matters to board staff as appropriate.					
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b>					
I ensure that I understand the fiscal structure of the licensing program and its current financial position.					
I publicly support the decisions of the board and provide rationale when asked.					
I maintain confidentiality with all information coming into my possession.					
My fellow board members would agree with my responses on this self-assessment.					



### **XIII. Updates to This Guide**

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development strives to be an efficient and effective partner in meeting the boards' obligation to ensure that competent, professional, and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers.

From time to time, this manual may be updated as regulations or policies change or as new tools become available to assist boards and commissions in fulfilling their important role in this partnership.

First Issued: July 2012

Updated: January 2015, August 2016, December 2016, September 2023, March 2026

The manual was last reviewed in full by Assistant Attorneys General with the Department of Law in August 2016.

Should you have question about the contents of this manual or suggestions for future training materials, please contact the Department Boards and Regulations Advisor at 907-465-2144.

Additional credit for certain contents:

- Alaska Department of Law
- The Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) and its member agencies
- The staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
- Alaska Department of Administration; Division of Finance
- Nathan Garber & Associates
- Balanced Scorecard Institute
- Professional Standards Authority

## XIV. Comments and Suggestions

At any time, please complete this form and return to the Department Boards and Regulations Advisor:

MAIL: P.O. Box 110800, Juneau, AK 99811-0800  
 EMAIL: [sara.chambers@alaska.gov](mailto:sara.chambers@alaska.gov)  
 PHONE: 907-465-2144

1) This guide helped increase my knowledge of:

	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Purpose and Role of a Board/Commission Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decisionmaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right-Touch Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Branch Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflicts of Interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Meetings Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Session	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ex Parte Contact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategic Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making Motions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorum and Voting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board/Staff Relationship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:				

2) I would like future manual revisions to include more information about:

3) Other comments/suggestions:

# Appendices

Motion Worksheet

Executive Session Motion Template

Regulations Project Opening Questionnaire: Part I

Electronic Payment Agreement

Substitute Form W-9

Board Member Travel Approval Request Form

Update Traveler Information Form



# EXECUTIVE SESSION MOTION TEMPLATE

## Authority

---

*Only topics authorized in the list below can be discussed in executive session.*

### **AS 44.62.310. Government meetings public.**

(c) The following subject may be considered in an executive session:

- (1) matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the public entity;
- (2) subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion;
- (3) matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential;
- (4) matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure.

## Motion Wording

---

*Use this script to craft the motion to enter executive session by selecting one item from the statutory citation list and then adding all the people who the board would like to include. When meeting with an Administrative Law Judge, only the board can be present. The board member making this motion will read the parts in **bold** on the record.*

**“In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310 (c), I move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing**

*Select one item from this list:*

- matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the public entity.**
- subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**
- matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential.**
- matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure.**

*If applicable, select who should be included in the executive session with the board and include them in the motion:*

- Board staff**
- The board’s attorney**
- The applicant**
- \_\_\_\_\_

**to remain during session.”**

# Board or Commission Regulation Project Opening Questionnaire

## Part I: Completed by Board

- The purpose of this worksheet is to provide the agency’s regulation specialist with a detailed overview of the proposed regulation change(s), including specific information as required by statute or the Department of Law.
- This worksheet must be completed by the board during a meeting or delegated to a board member, then submitted to agency staff.
- Details should be kept brief yet comprehensive. If a section of the form is not relevant to the project, please mark it as “N/A.” Do not leave any sections blank.
- The regulation specialist may reach out to staff or board members at any stage during the project for additional information needed to compile the FAQ. The FAQ will be posted in the Online Public Notice System and on the board website during the public comment period.
- If the proposed regulation changes comprise more than one subject matter, the board must complete a separate worksheet for each subject. For example, if the intent is to (a) update continuing education requirements for license renewals, (b) repeal redundant provisions, and (c) introduce new regulations following statutory changes, the board would submit a total of three worksheets, one for each the subjects (a), (b), and (c).

<b>Board:</b>		<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	
<b>General Subject Matter/Topic:</b>			
<b>Regulation(s) to be amended:</b>			
<b>Board member submitting worksheet:</b>		<b>Date to Staff:</b>	

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE BOARD OR A DESIGNATED BOARD MEMBER:**

<b>1. Which of the following motions has the board passed on the record:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve draft language to initiate a regulations project. <input type="checkbox"/> Approve for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by regulations specialist or Department of Law. <input type="checkbox"/> Approve an oral hearing on the proposed regulations (if applicable).
<b>2. What will this regulation do?</b>
<b>3. What is the public need or reason for this regulation?</b>

<p><b>4. What is the known or estimated annual cost of the new regulation to a private person, a state agency, or a municipality?*</b></p>
<p><b>5. How will this have a <u>positive</u> or <u>negative</u> impact on public or private people, businesses, or organizations?</b></p>
<p><b>6. If any <u>negative</u> consequences, please address the reasons why the public need for this change outweighs the negative impact.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable</p>
<p><b>7. List all questions and concerns you anticipate licensees or the public may raise about the proposal. Include the board's response to these concerns. Anticipate any perceptions and potential unintended consequences. <u>This information will be included on the public FAQ and is required.</u> Attach an additional sheet, if needed.</b></p>
<p><b>8. In addition to interested parties, who should receive public notice?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All licensees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Certain license types (list types): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other stakeholders: _____</p>

\* Cost information is described simply as an estimate of annual costs within the board's ability to determine due to its familiarity with the regulated community. Example: A board is proposing to require three CE credits to their continuing competency standards for biennial license renewal. The proposal requires licensees to take additional courses, so it may cost:

- A private person: \$50-\$200 per applicant/licensee biannually
- A state agency: None known
- A municipality: None known

# STATE OF ALASKA

## ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AGREEMENT

Mail completed form to:  
 DEPT OF ADMINISTRATION / DIV OF FINANCE  
 PO BOX 110204 / JUNEAU AK 99811-0204  
 or FAX to: (907) 465-2169  
 Questions? Call (907) 465-5622

\* Indicates required field.

### FOR VENDORS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA

#### PAYEE INFORMATION

STATE OF ALASKA VENDOR NUMBER		TAXPAYER ID - SSN / EIN *		<i>ID number assigned to the legal name below and used for tax reporting</i>	
LEGAL NAME * <i>(Name that Tax ID above is assigned to and is used for tax reporting)</i>					
BUSINESS NAME <i>(DBA - Doing Business As Name. If different from legal name shown above)</i>					
IS MAILING ADDRESS NEW? * <input type="radio"/> YES / <input type="radio"/> NO	MAILING ADDRESS *	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE + 4	
CONTACT NAME	DAYTIME PHONE *	CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS <i>for copies of remit advice</i>		

#### BANKING INFORMATION

The State of Alaska sends a pre-note zero dollar test transaction to verify the accuracy of the banking information below. Payments will not be sent electronically until the pre-note process is complete, generally five business days. The State of Alaska will contact you if the pre-note fails.

ARE YOU  ADDING,  CHANGING *(must provide PRIOR acct info)*  OR CANCELLING THIS AGREEMENT? \*

*Please attach a voided check or other bank verification of account number as applicable*

CURRENT ACCOUNT INFORMATION *		PRIOR ACCOUNT INFORMATION <i>(for Changes only)</i>	
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAME	ACCOUNT TYPE	<i>For verification purposes you must provide your prior account information if you are requesting a change.</i>	
ACCOUNT NAME <i>(Business / Legal Name on Account)</i>	<input type="radio"/> Checking <input type="radio"/> Savings	ABA/ROUTING TRANSIT NUM	FULL ACCOUNT NUMBER
ABA/ROUTING TRANSIT NUMBER	FULL ACCOUNT NUMBER		

IS THIS ACCOUNT PRIMARILY A PERSONAL OR BUSINESS ACCOUNT? \*  PERSONAL - OR -  BUSINESS

**FOR BUSINESS ACCOUNTS.** Choose ONE of the business account addenda information format options below.

Payments deposited separately with one addendum (remittance) record for each payment.  Payments combined into one deposit with multiple addenda (remittance) records for each payment in the deposit.

NACHA Operating Rules requires your banking institution to provide you with addenda (remittance) information that the State includes on each payment. Any banking charge to receive this information is the responsibility of the account holder.

#### AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize the State of Alaska to satisfy payment obligations due me by making deposits to the account indicated above. I understand that receipt of the electronic fund transfer(s) will fulfill the State's payment obligation and the State will be credited for the full amount on the date the fund transfer is completed. I understand the State will make a reasonable effort to notify me within 24 hours if a reversing entry is made against this account. This authority is to remain in full force through the duration of this agreement. I understand that thirty (30) days written notice is required if I change financial institutions, account numbers or type of account.

In addition, as required by the Federal Office of Foreign Asset Control in support of U.S.C. Title 50, War and National Defense, I attest that the full amount of my direct deposit is not being forwarded to a bank in another country and that if at any point I establish a standing order with my receiving bank to forward the full direct deposit to a bank in another country, I will inform the State of Alaska immediately.

I certify all information regarding this authorization is true and correct. Any intent to falsify information is punishable under AS 11.56.210 as a class A misdemeanor.

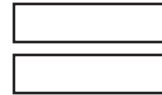
If the State discovers that the full amount of a direct deposit has been forwarded to another country or if information on the form has been falsified, this agreement shall be terminated. All correspondence with the State concerning this agreement or any changes to account information should be sent to the address at the top of this form. All terms remain in effect until this agreement is terminated by either party.

PRINTED NAME *	TITLE
SIGNATURE *	DATE *



*DOA.DOF:Vendor.HelpDesk@alaska.gov*

**DO NOT send to IRS**







## UPDATE TRAVELER INFO:

**Board:**

**Board Members Name (as appears on ID):**

**Date of Birth:**

**Personal Address:**

**Email Address(s):**

**Business Phone:**

**Home Phone:**

**Cell Phone:**

**Fax #:**

**Mileage #:**

**Seat Preference (on plane):**

**Additional Notes:**

*This form is to ensure we book all of your travel with the correct information.  
Please note, we cannot always accommodate requests, but we do our best within policy!  
Thank you!*

**From:**

**Subject:**

**Date:**

Legislative Communications Guidance for Professional Licensing Boards

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 11:10:05 AM

---

Dear Members of Alaska's Professional Licensing Boards:

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to the people of Alaska. The work you perform as volunteer regulators is essential to protecting the public and supporting strong, well-functioning professions. We deeply value your time, expertise, and commitment.

To support consistency across the Executive Branch, the Governor's Legislative Office (GLO) is working to ensure communications and processes related to legislative engagement are clear and aligned. We appreciate your collaboration in this effort.

The Administration's positions on legislation are set through the Governor's policy direction. Professional licensing boards and commissions under AS 08 are components of the executive branch and do not independently initiate, pursue, or advocate statutory changes.

Boards are expected to remain neutral on pending legislation unless expressly authorized through department leadership and GLO. Boards do not adopt or communicate support/oppose positions on pending legislation. Boards are regulators, not professional associations, and board members do not serve to promote a profession or organize support for policy outcomes.

When a board is asked to provide input on a bill, comments must be limited to technical matters within the board's statutory scope (including matters raised through a legislative audit) and must be provided in writing to division staff, who will route them through division and department leadership for coordination with GLO.

All verbal or written testimony or correspondence offered on behalf of a professional licensing board must be coordinated through division and department leadership and approved by GLO in advance. If a legislative committee requests testimony regarding a bill reauthorizing your board under AS 08.03, the board chair or another designated representative should coordinate with division staff to secure GLO approval before participating in the hearing.

If you have questions about how to proceed with current or upcoming legislative matters, please continue to work closely with division and department leadership.

Sincerely,

Jordan Shilling  
Director | Governor's Legislative Office  
Director | Boards & Commissions  
Office of the Governor

Anchorage (B&C): 907-269-0013

Juneau (GLO): 907-465-4021

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Annual Report Review

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

**Board of Nursing**

**Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2026



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

P.O. Box 110806  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806  
Email: [License@Alaska.Gov](mailto:License@Alaska.Gov)

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

**[Board of Nursing]  
FY 2026 Annual Report**

**Table of Contents**

Board Membership

**Page X**

Accomplishments

**Page X**

Activities

**Page X**

Needs

**Page X**

**[Board of Nursing]  
FY 2026 Annual Report**

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

**Date of Final Board Approval: [Click or tap to enter a date.]**

[Click or tap here to enter text. (List all board members as of the date this report was approved.)]

**[Board of Nursing]  
FY 2026 Annual Report**

**Accomplishments**

**Statutory or regulatory changes**

**-Updated language surrounding English Language Proficiency exams. Removed barriers of specific vendors. Utilizing approved tests and scores on the HRSA website**

**Disciplinary Matrices Created or Updates**

**-Standardized PDMP lack of registration discipline  
-Updated Nurse Aide registry discipline matrix to match statute**

**Public Safety Measures**

**License Actions taken**

**Include final data here up to April 30th**

**Accomplishments by staff**

**-Kelly Olson, Nurse Consultant, participated in the NCSBN Model and Rules Act committee  
-Patty Wolf, Executive Administrator- NCSBN NCLEX item Review Sub Committee, AK Nursing Workforce Steering Committee and Board Member, APRN Knowledge Network, NCSBN Education Network Meeting,**

**Accomplishments and participation by Board Members**

**-Danette Schloeder completed her NCSBN Board appointment.  
-Danette Schloeder participated in the AK Nursing Workforce Steering Committee.  
-April Erickson participated on the Med Spa task force  
-Marianne Murray- NCSBN Education Network Meeting  
-April Erickson- APRN Knowledge Network  
-Danette Schloeder- NCSBN Presidents Network, Discipline and Policy Network**

**[Board of Nursing]  
FY 2026 Annual Report**

**Activities**

[Click or tap here to enter text. ("Accomplishments" include but are not limited to statutory or regulatory changes finalized, disciplinary matrices created, investigations conducted, public safety measures implemented, general descriptions of license actions taken for the sake of public safety, accomplishments by staff, accomplishments by board members, etc.)]

[Click or tap here to enter text. ("Activities" include but are not limited to board meetings, subcommittee or workgroup meetings, attendance at conferences, public speaking events, involvement in legislative hearings, in process statute or regulation changes, etc.)]

**Held four regular meetings, two urgent meetings, and one special meeting/work session this fiscal year.**

**Board Staff Presentation to graduating classes of schools of nursing:**

**Nurse Aide Education Conference**

**Represented Alaska at the NCSBN Annual and Mid Year Meetings this fiscal year.**

**[Board of Nursing]  
FY 2026 Annual Report**

**Needs**

- LPN Seat has been vacant for two years. It was filled March 1, 2026 however it is again vacant.**
- Support to attend National Conferences and Educational Opportunities, especially when third party funded.**
- Support to attend Legislative Session**
- Support to travel to Board Meetings**

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Adjourned for Lunch

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item 14



## Division Updates

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Board to Designate Representatives for  
Legislation

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #16



BON and Licensing Updates



# Alaska Board of Nursing Licensing and NCLEX report

3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER FISCAL YEAR  
2026

JANUARY 1-MARCH 31,  
2026

# Total licensees by license type

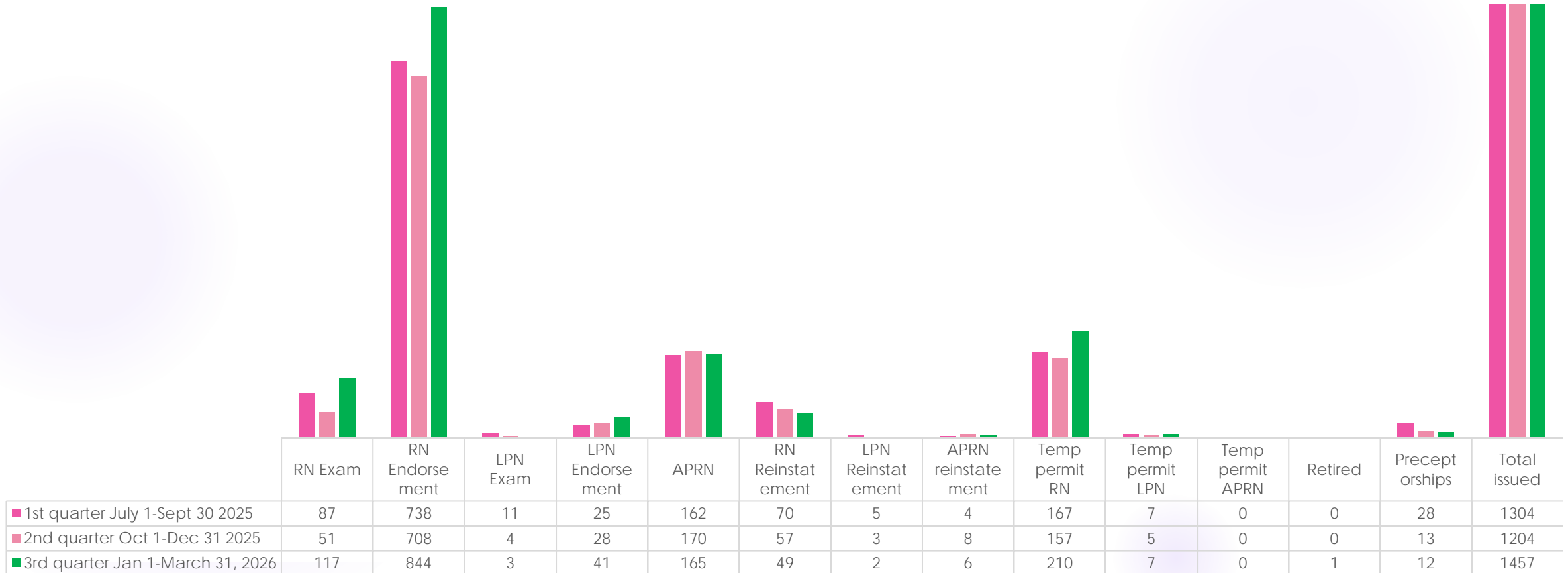
\*as of March 31, 2026

total current	APRN 3130	RN 22938	LPN 867	Preceptorship 78	Retired 264
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# Licensing summary

## Fiscal 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2026

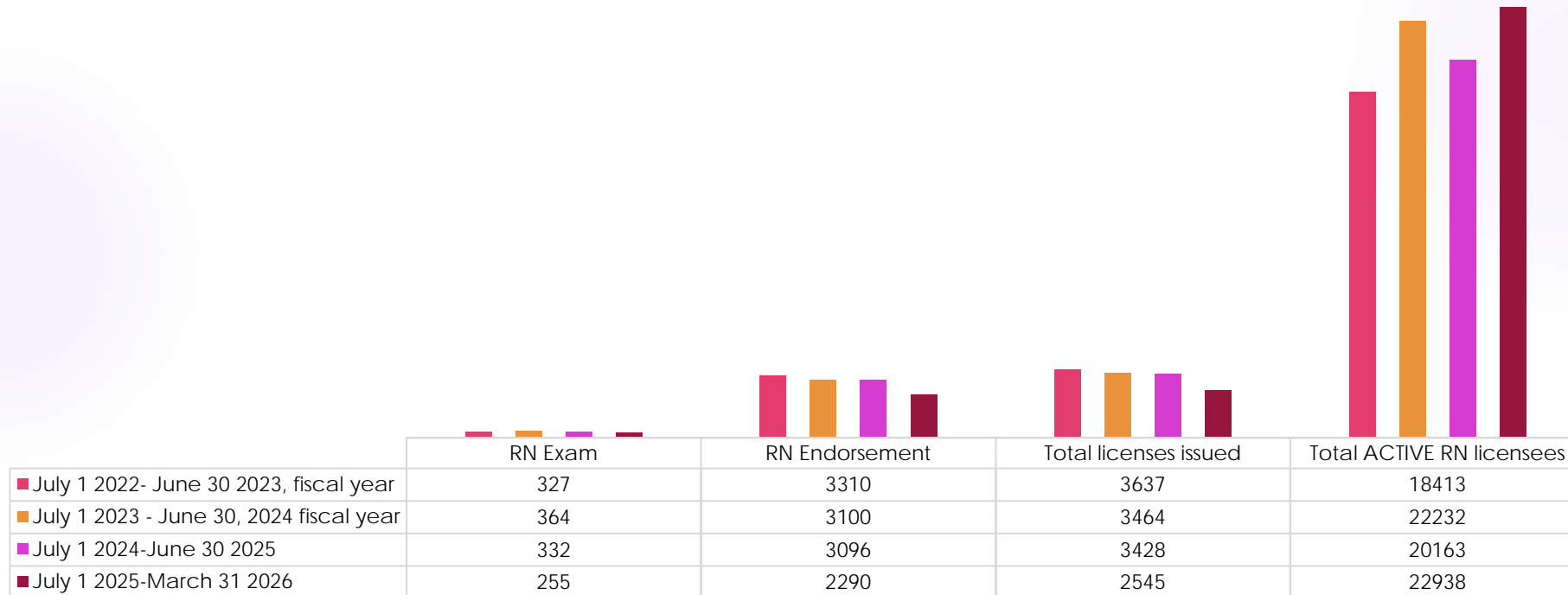
### January 1-March 31, 2026



# RN licenses

## \*as of March 31, 2026

July 1 2022- June 30 2023, fiscal year    July 1 2023 - June 30, 2024 fiscal year    July 1 2024-June 30 2025    July 1 2025-March 31 2026



# LPN licenses

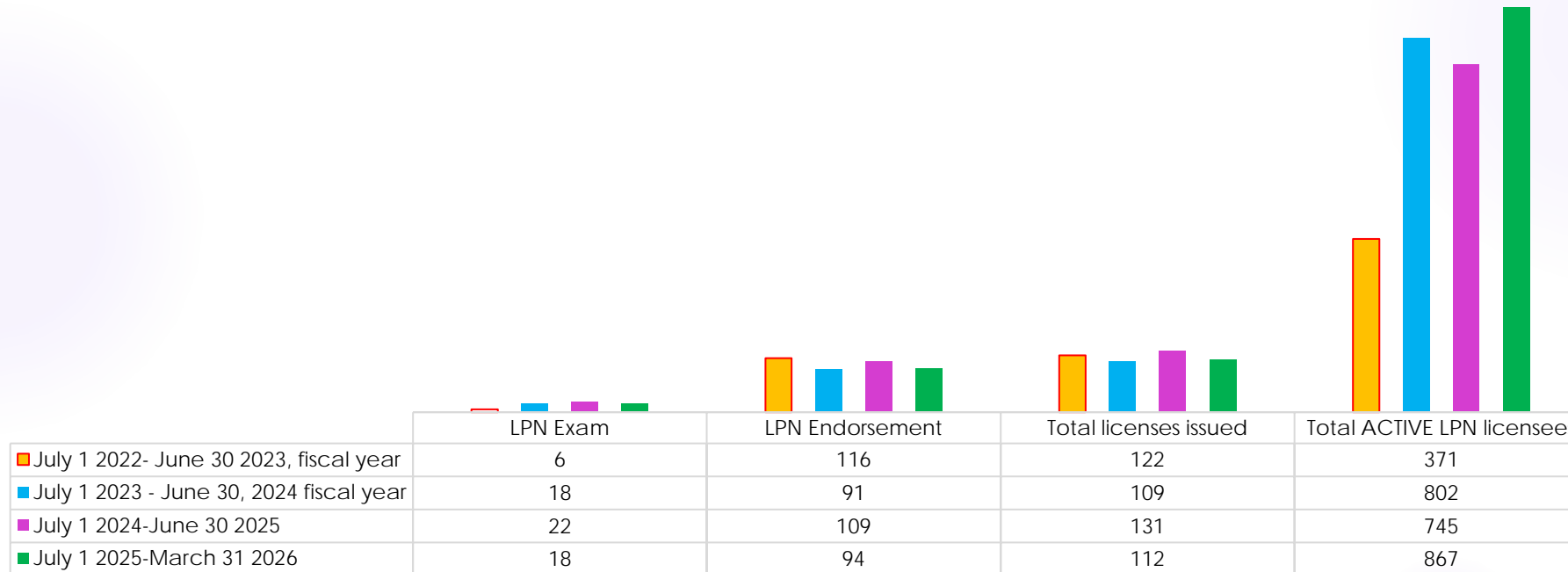
## \*as of March 31, 2026

July 1 2022- June 30 2023, fiscal year

July 1 2023 - June 30, 2024 fiscal year

July 1 2024-June 30 2025

July 1 2025-March 31 2026

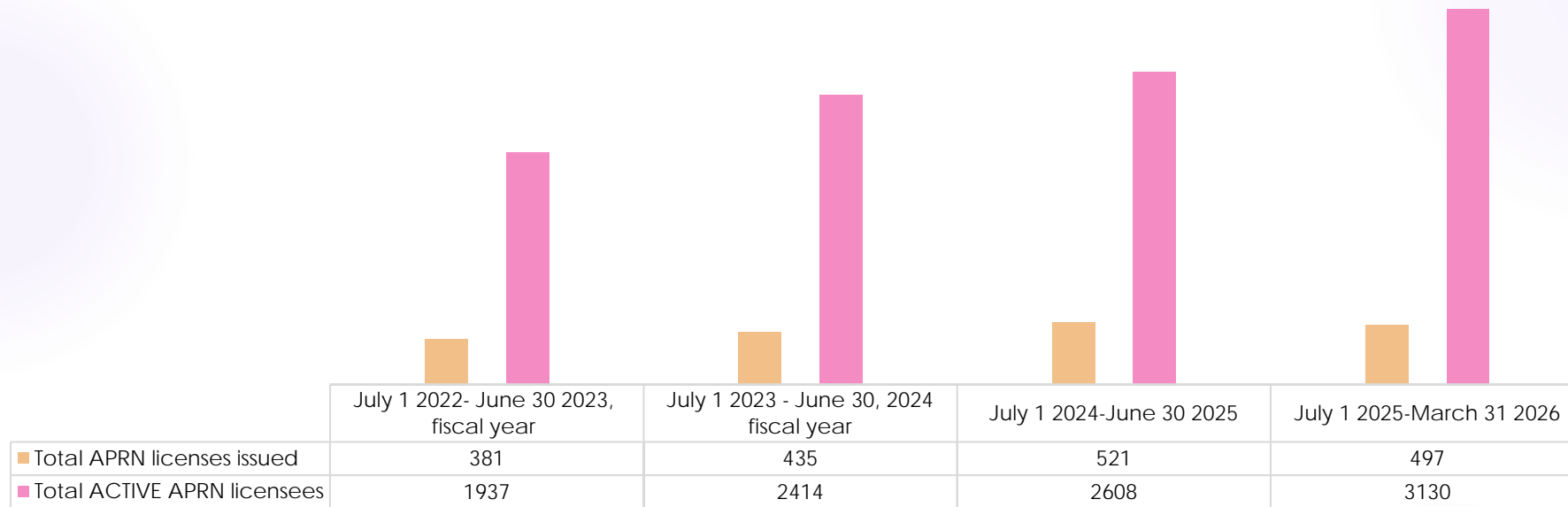


# APRN licenses

\*as of March 31, 2026

Total APRN licenses issued

Total ACTIVE APRN licensees



# Active APRN licensees by role \*as of March 31, 2026

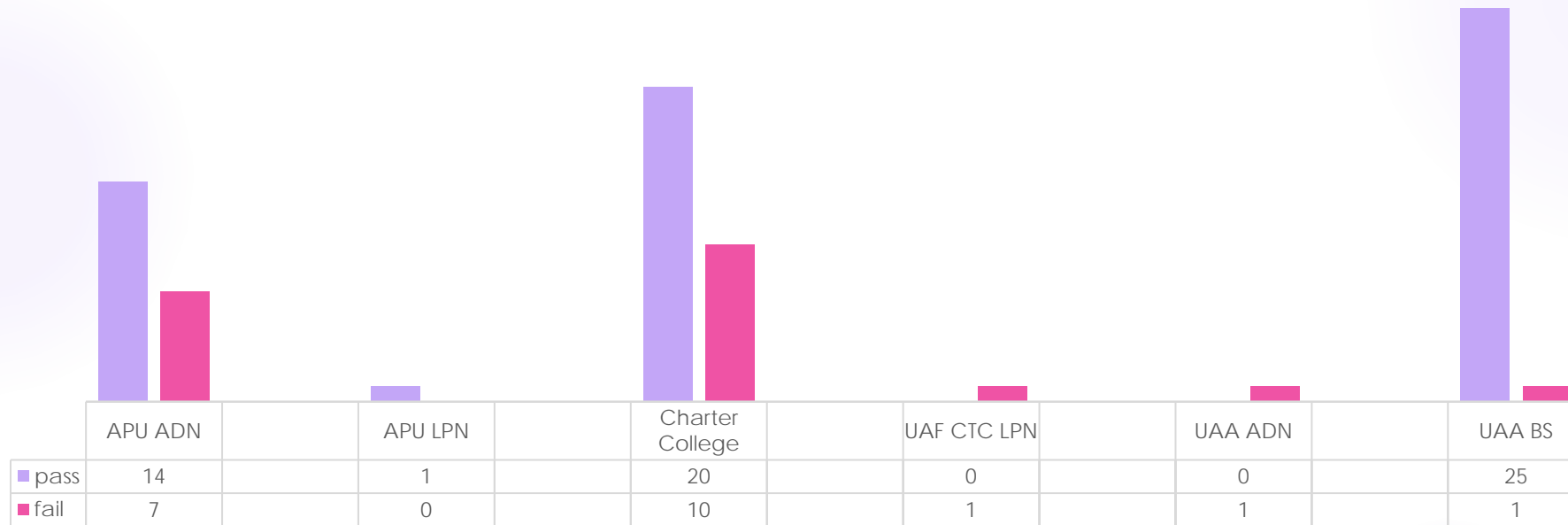
Total	2961	285	30	140
	Nurse Practitioner	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	Certified Nurse Specialist	Certified Nurse Midwife
	285	30	140	

# Total Active Nurse Practitioners by specialty

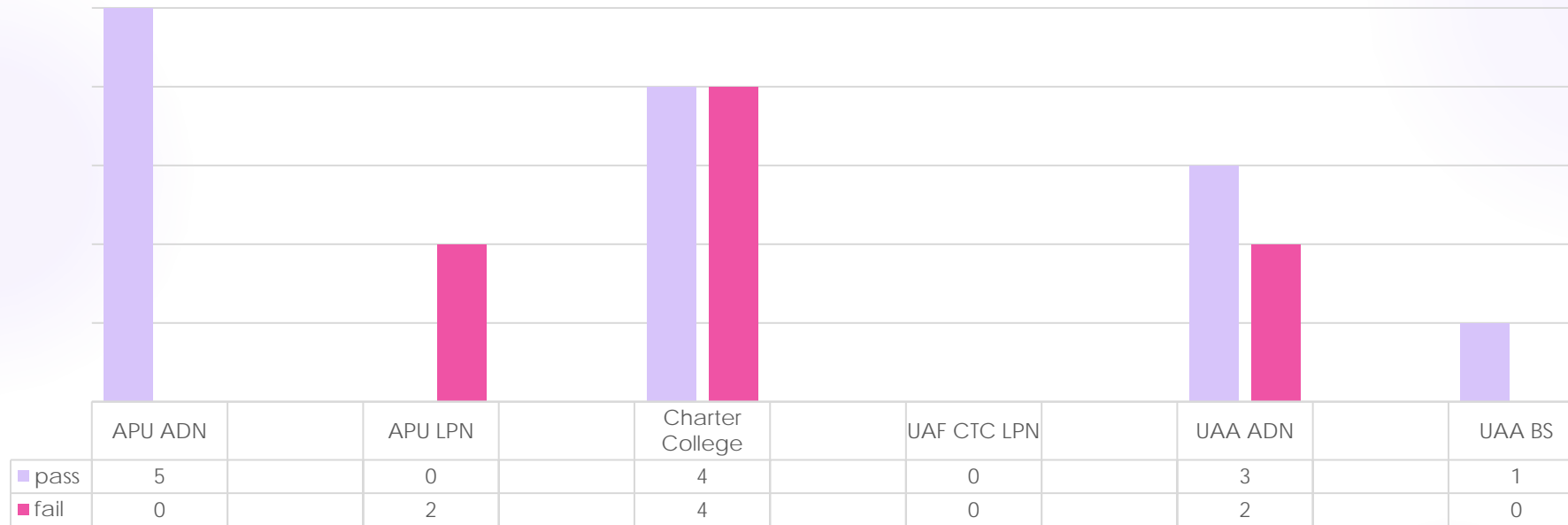
\*as of March 31, 2026

	Acute Care	Adult Gerontology Acute Care	Adult Psychiatric/ Mental Health	Adult/Gerontology	Emergency	Family Health	Neonatal	Pediatric Acute Care	Pediatric Primary Care	Psychiatric/ Mental Health	Women's Health
Total Active	39	80	28	163	31	1991	20	21	66	438	83

# 1st quarter 2026 Jan. 1-March 31, 2026 NCLEX results \*First time testers only



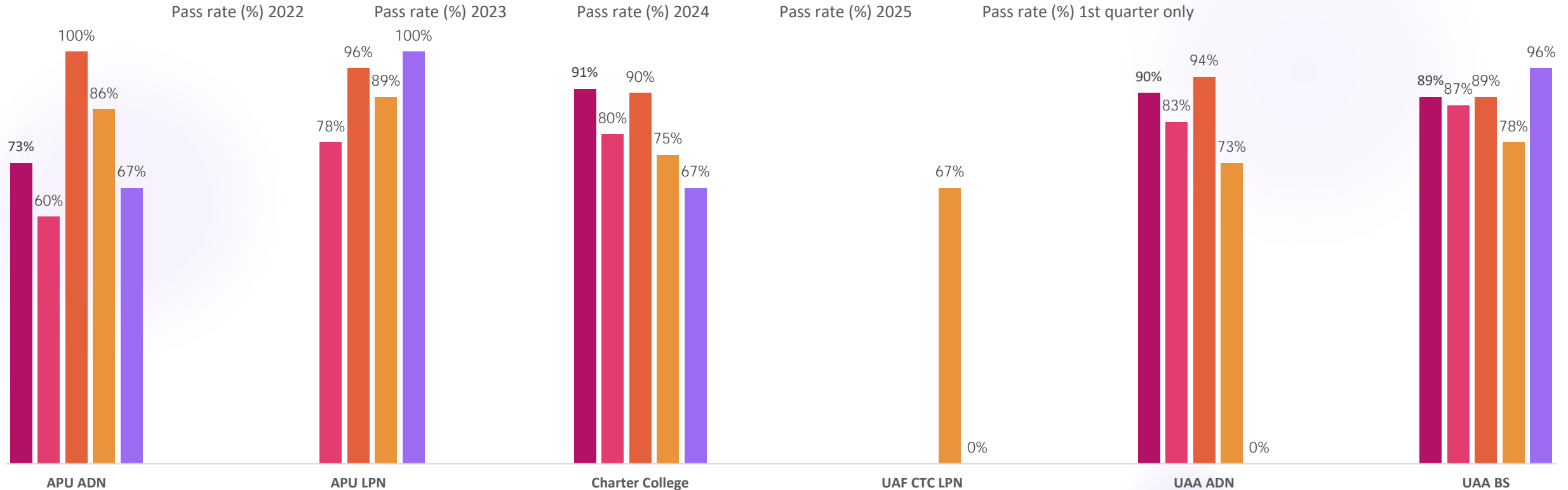
# 1st Quarter Jan. 1-March 31, 2026 NCLEX results \*Re-testers only



# Yearly NCLEX Pass rates 2022-current\*

\*as of March 31, 2026

\*First time test takers only



# Nurse Aide Licensing & Training Program Report

May 2026  
FY26 Q3 Quarterly Board Meeting

## Alaska Board of Nursing



# Licensing Report



# Quarterly Nurse Aide Certification Statistics

**FY26 Q3** (January 2026 – March 2026)

as of 4/13/2026:

Renewed thru 2028: 1,965

Extended 90 days: 10

Lapsed in 2026: 1,048

Total Active: 2,088

## Quarterly Nurse Aide Statistics **Fiscal 2026 - Quarter 3: Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2026**

Permanent certificates issued: **111**

Reinstatements issued: **3**

Temporary certificates issued: **25**

Total permanent nurse aide certificates as of March 31, 2026: **2,057**

### **CNA Certifications by Recent Fiscal Quarter (oldest first):**

	<i>New Permanent certificates issued</i>	<i>Reinstatements</i>	<i>Temporary certificates issued</i>	<i>Emergency Courtesy Certificates issued</i>	<i>Total permanent certificates</i>
FY 26 Quarter 1 7/1/25 – 9/30/25	107	5	19	0	2,915
FY 26 Quarter 2 10/1/25 – 12/31/25	100	2	14	0	3,015
FY 26 Quarter 3 1/1/26 – 3/31/26	111	3	25	0	2,057
FY 26 Quarter 4 4/1/26 – 6/30/26					

FY24 Renewal year Comparison

**CNA Certifications by Recent Fiscal Quarter (oldest first):**

	<i>New Permanent certificates issued</i>	<i>Reinstatements</i>	<i>Temporary certificates issued</i>	<i>Emergency Courtesy Certificates issued</i>	<i>Total permanent certificates</i>
FY 24 Quarter 1 7/1/23 – 9/30/23	144	3	13	0	2,983
FY 24 Quarter 2 10/1/23 – 12/31/23	48	2	12	0	3,027
FY 24 Quarter 3 1/1/24 – 3/31/24	133	0	15	0	2,046
FY 24 Quarter 4 4/1/24 – 6/30/24	162	7	27	0	2,279

---

# Training Program Report



## 32 State Approved Nurse Aide Training Programs

(Full list available under “*Certificate Information*” on the Nurse Aide Registry page.)

# NURSE AIDE REGISTRY

Certification of nurse aides and maintenance of the nurse aide abuse registry are responsibilities of the Board of Nursing. The Board also makes final certification decisions and takes disciplinary action against nurse aides who violate the law. The Nurse Aide Registry Program is staffed by the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing.

Alaska statutes prohibit unlicensed practice. Specifically, AS 08.68.360 states that the practice of professional or practical nursing for compensation by a person who is not licensed, or whose license is suspended, or revoked, or expired, is declared to be inimical to the public welfare and to constitute a public nuisance.

### Customer Contact Form

Do you have questions about your professional license?  
Please fill out our [Customer Contact Form](#) for the fastest response.

### Certification Information

- [New Certificate Holder Information](#)  
#08-4227, Revised 09/27/2024
- [State Approved Nurse Aide Training Programs](#)  
#08-4943, Revised 01/30/2025
- [Credentia](#)  
Nurse Aide Testing Services
- [Nurse Aide Exam Process Timeline](#)

### Online Applications for Certification

# Newly Approved Instructors

---



# Newly Approved Instructors

## FY26 Q3

12 AAC 44.840

- Kenai Peninsula College- 1 New Instructor
- Central Peninsula Hospital- 3 New Instructors
- Bethel CNA- 1 New Instructor
- Norton Sound Health Corporation- 5 New Instructors
- Polaris- 1 New Instructor

**12 AAC 44.840. PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS.** (a) In a non facility-based program,  
(1) an instructor must be either a registered nurse or practical nurse licensed under AS 08.68 and have  
(A) completed a course in teaching adults; or  
(B) obtained experience in teaching adults or supervising nurse aides; and  
(2) the program instructor or program director must have at least one year of experience in the provision of long-term care facility services.  
(b) In a facility-based program,  
(1) the training of nurse aides may be performed under the general supervision of  
(A) a registered nurse who has at least two years of nursing experience; or  
(B) the director of nursing for the facility who has at least one year of experience in a long-term care facility, but who may be prohibited from performing the actual training; and  
(2) other persons may assist the instructor to meet program objectives for specific topics in training nurse aides, including physical and mental health care providers who have at least one year of experience in their fields.

**\*Approximately 90 Active Instructors**

# Training Program Reviews

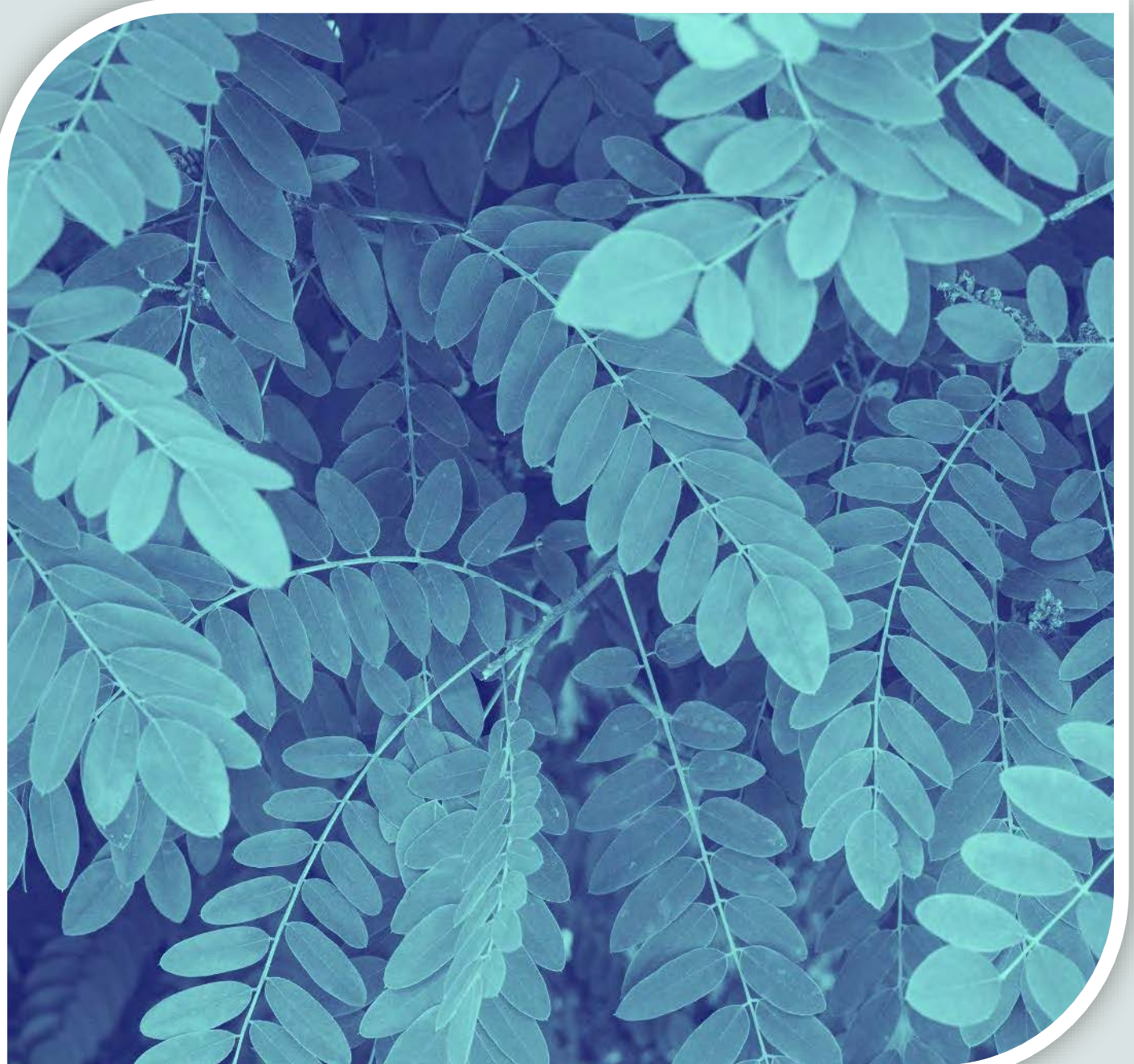
FY26 Q3

---

- No On-site visits or Self Evaluations

- Next Annual Pass Rates report:  
FY26 Q4 (August 2026)

Next Self Evaluations- FY 27



# Upcoming Training Program Reviews

**FY26 Q4- May 2026**

**2-year Review/Approval:**

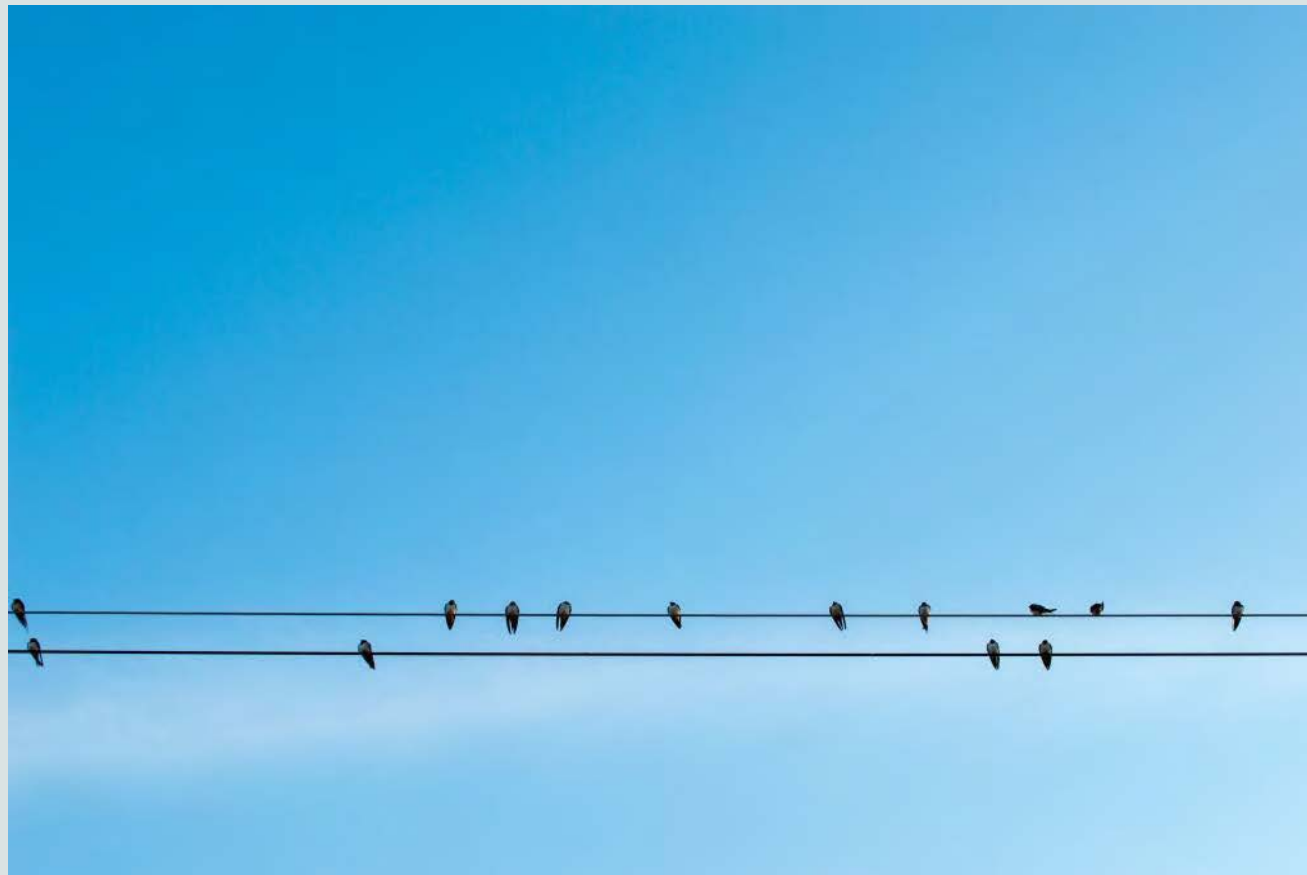
Alaska CNA  
Alaska Native Medical Center  
Denali Center  
Don Young Alaska Job Corp  
Mat-Su CNA  
UAF Fairbanks

**Provisional to full approval (2 year)**

Polaris



Questions?



Thank you 😊

---

# Kelly Olson, RN

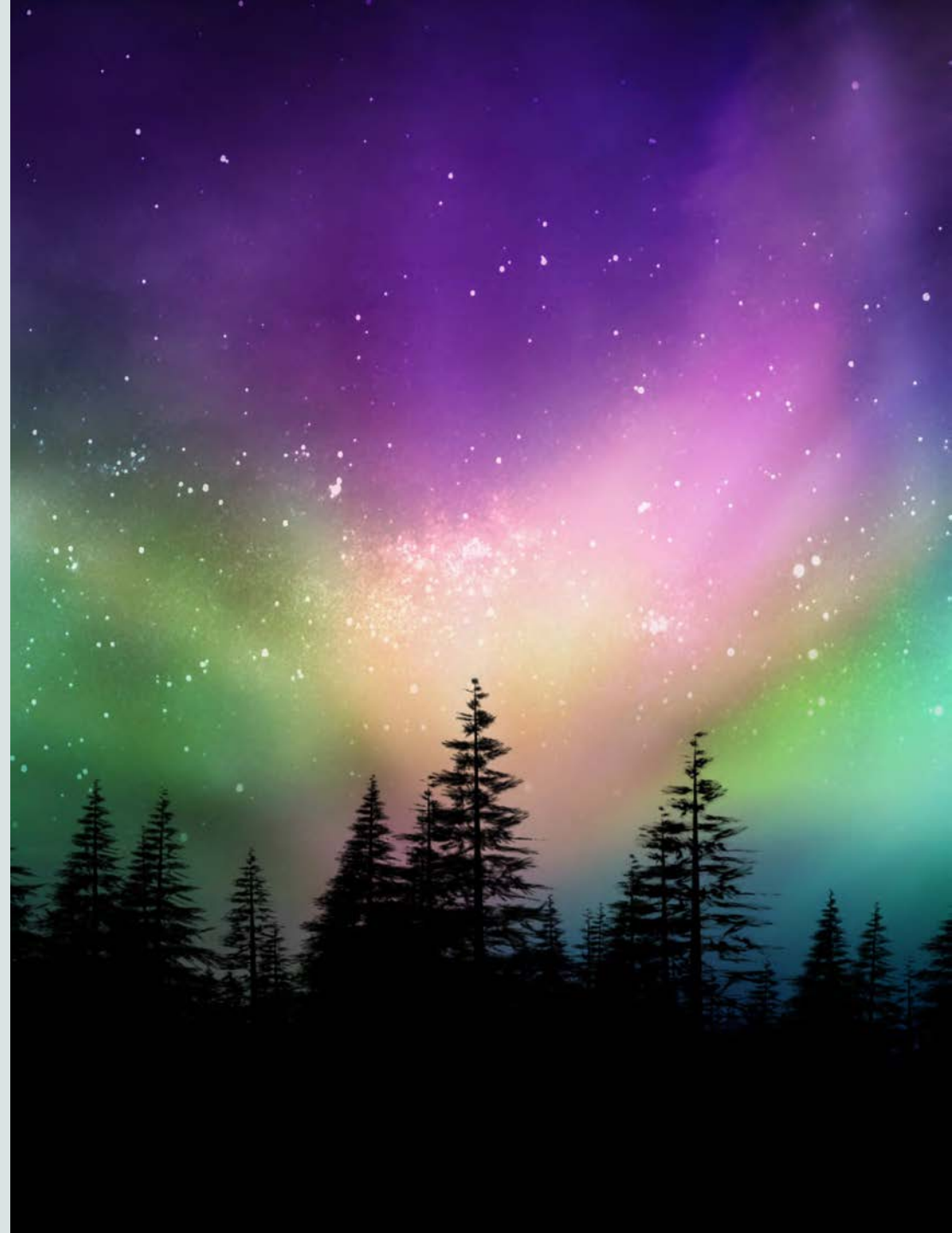
Nurse Consultant 1

Alaska Board of Nursing

Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

[kelly.olson@alaska.gov](mailto:kelly.olson@alaska.gov)

(907) 269-8098



# Alaska Board of Nursing



Break

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #17



Board Investigative Training



# Investigative Process Overview

PRESENTED BY THE INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

# Who Are We?

State of Alaska



Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development



Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing



Investigations



# What Do We Do?

The mission of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers.

# Three License Types

01

Professional License:  
Individual specialty  
such as a Nurse, Doctor,  
Dentist, Massage  
Therapist, etc...

02

Business License:  
(AS 43.70.020) If  
providing any service  
for the exchange of  
money, a business  
license is required in the  
state of Alaska.

03

Corporate Entity  
(Corporation): A group of  
persons who are deemed in  
law to be a single legal  
*entity*. The *corporate entity*  
is legally distinct from its  
members; it has legal  
personality and can hold  
property, sue and be sued  
in its own name as if it were  
a natural person.

# Who Needs a Professional License Through the State of Alaska?

- ▶ Acupuncturists
- ▶ Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors
- ▶ Athletic Trainers
- ▶ Audiologists & Speech-Language Pathologists
- ▶ Barbers & Hairdressers
- ▶ Behavior Analysts
- ▶ Big Game Commercial Services Board
- ▶ Chiropractic Examiners
- ▶ Collection Agencies
- ▶ Concert Promoters
- ▶ Construction Contractors
- ▶ Dental Examiners
- ▶ Dietitians & Nutritionists
- ▶ Dispensing Opticians
- ▶ Electrical Administrators
- ▶ Euthanize Domestic Animals
- ▶ Geologists
- ▶ Guardians & Conservators
- ▶ Hearing Aid Dealers
- ▶ Home Inspectors
- ▶ Marine Pilots
- ▶ Marital & Family Therapy
- ▶ Massage Therapists
- ▶ Mechanical Administrators
- ▶ Medical Board
- ▶ Midwives
- ▶ Morticians
- ▶ Naturopathy
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Nurse Aide Registry
- ▶ Nursing Home Administrators
- ▶ Optometry
- ▶ Pawnbrokers
- ▶ Pharmacy
- ▶ Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy
- ▶ Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- ▶ Professional Counselors
- ▶ Psychologist and Psychological Associate
- ▶ Public Accountancy
- ▶ Real Estate Appraisers
- ▶ Real Estate Commission
- ▶ Social Work Examiners
- ▶ Telemedicine Business Registry
- ▶ Underground Storage Tank Worker
- ▶ Veterinary Examiners



What Do We Investigate?

# Statutes & Regulations

- ▶ AS = Alaska Statutes: Are passed by either the US Congress or State Legislatures: The legislatures create bills that, when passed by a vote, become statutory law.
- ▶ AAC = Alaska Administrative Code // Regulation: Regulations, on the other hand, are standards and rules adopted by administrative agencies (Boards) that govern how laws will be enforced.

## Difference between Statutes and Regulations:

Although many people use the terms "statute" and "regulation" interchangeably, they aren't the same. Governing bodies, such as the United States Congress or a state legislature, enact statutes. On a local level, the statutes enacted by municipalities are known as ordinances. Regulations put those statutes to work, fleshing out the details.

# Different Roles



## EXAMPLE:

- ▶ AK Legislature creates Statutes.
- ▶ Boards create Regulations.
- ▶ Investigations investigate *alleged violations* of Statutes and/or Regulations.
- ▶ Board Members verify whether or not a violation occurred when reviewing a case from investigations.

Investigators gather information. Licensed board members determine if a violation of statute or regulation has occurred.



# How Does Someone File a Complaint?

# Public Website

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/Investigations.aspx>



## THE STATE of ALASKA

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

ADM

### Investigations Section

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1500, Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: (907) 269-8174 • Fax: (907) 269-8195

Website: [CBPLinvestigations.Alaska.Gov](http://CBPLinvestigations.Alaska.Gov)

Email: [Investigations@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Investigations@Alaska.Gov)

## Investigations — Request for Contact

The division investigates matters pertaining to business licenses, the sale of tobacco products, and licensed professionals. Not all issues will fall within our jurisdiction. You may have to contact other agencies for assistance. We encourage you to call to ensure that we are able to assist you.

This is only a request for contact. You may submit this form via US Mail, fax, or email, to the contact information listed above. Once the division has reviewed this information you will be contacted and may be asked to fill out a complaint package.

PART I		Your Contact Information		
Complete Name:	<input type="text" value="First Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Middle Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Last Name"/>	
Mailing Address:	<input type="text" value="Address"/>	<input type="text" value="City"/>	<input type="text" value="State"/>	<input type="text" value="Zip Code"/>
Contact Phone:	( <input type="text" value="Area Code"/> ) <input type="text" value="Prefix"/> <input type="text" value="Line Number"/> - <input type="text" value="Area Code"/> <input type="text" value="Prefix"/> <input type="text" value="Line Number"/>			
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>			

PART II		Description of Incident
Type of Business or Profession Involved:	<input type="text"/>	
Name(s) of Person or Business Involved:	<input type="text"/>	
Date(s) Which Incident Occurred:	<input type="text"/>	
Brief Description of Incident:	<input type="text"/>	

## Contact Us Directly

### Contact Us

State of Alaska/DCCED  
Division of Corporations, Business and  
Professional Licensing  
Investigations Section  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Phone: (907) 269-8124  
Fax: (907) 269-8195

Email: [Investigations@Alaska.gov](mailto:Investigations@Alaska.gov)

# Next Step: Is the Complaint Jurisdictional?

- Review informal guidelines established by the Board or Commission, and the statutes and regulations of that specific practice area.
- If the complaint does not appear to allege a violation that is within the Board's jurisdiction, the Division may close the complaint.

# Next Step: Is the Complaint Jurisdictional?

Complaints that are typically not jurisdictional are:

- Criminal complaints (Law Enforcement)
- Money or civil matters (Alaska Court System)
- “Bedside Manner”
- Quality of work complaints (Contractors)
- Unfair or deceptive business practices (Alaska Consumer Protection)
- Landlord Tenant Laws

# The Complaint is Jurisdictional. What Happens Next?

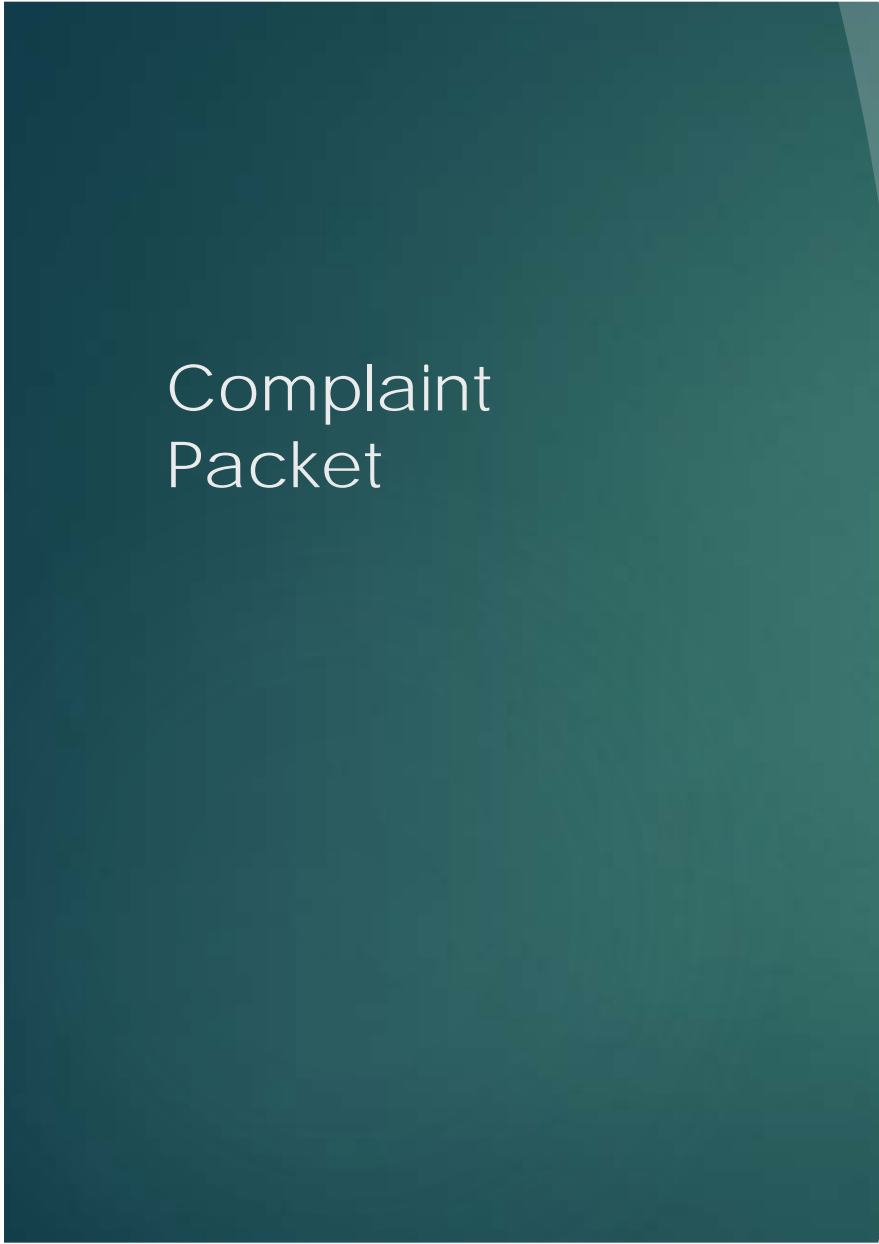
The complainant is asked to complete a complaint packet.

The packet provides the complainant to:

- Provide a summary of the incident
- Include supporting documentation
- Sign a release of information
- Sign an Affidavit

The Division does not generally accept anonymous complaints, except in unusual instances.

We require consumers to be accountable for their allegations; thereby avoiding manipulation of our process by unscrupulous parties seeking to eliminate competition or pursue personal or professional vendettas.



# Complaint Packet



## STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF **COMMERCE** COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing – Investigations

530 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1500, Anchorage, AK 99501-3567

Telephone: (907) 269-8437 Fax: (907) 269-8195 Website: [www.commerce.state.ak.us/ocb](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/ocb)

### COMPLAINT FILED BY:

NAME (Last, First Middle Initial)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

WORK PHONE

HOME PHONE

### COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST:

NAME and TITLE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

WORK PHONE

HOME PHONE

### SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

Please describe your complaint in detail. If necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper. Please provide any additional supporting documents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

### AFFIDAVIT

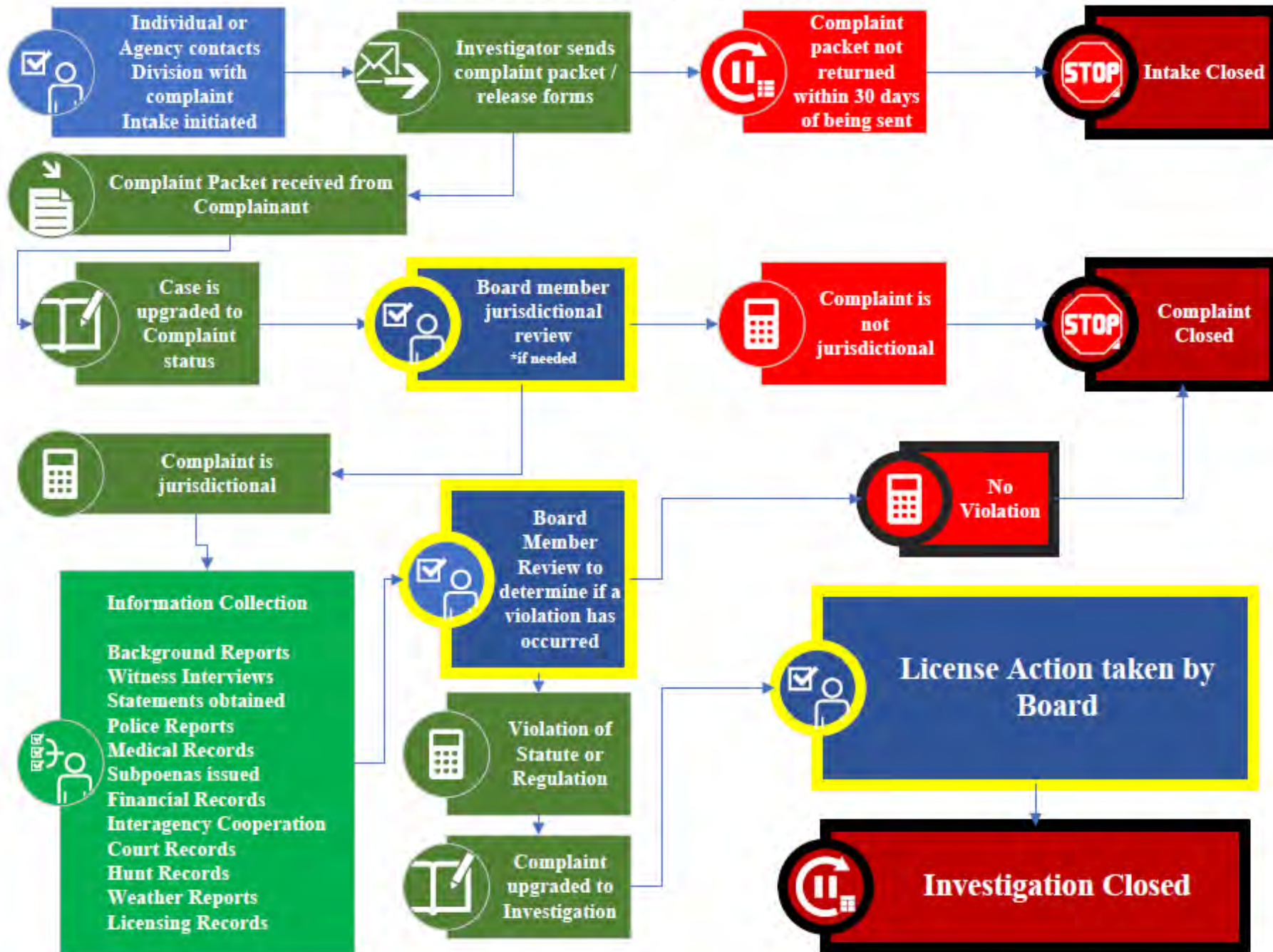
State of \_\_\_\_\_ City/Borough of \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby state under penalty of unsworn falsification: That I am the complainant in the named above and to the best of my knowledge and belief, this statement is true and correct.

Signature of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

AS 11.56.210(a)(2) of the Alaska Statutes makes it a class A misdemeanor of offense for a person to intentionally issue a false written or recorded statement, which is punishable by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, a \$5,000 fine, or both.

# INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS



# Three Stages of “Investigation”

## INTAKE:

Preliminary information stage

- Typically generated upon receipt of a Request for Contact form or a Referral Email.

## COMPLAINT:

Fact-gathering stage

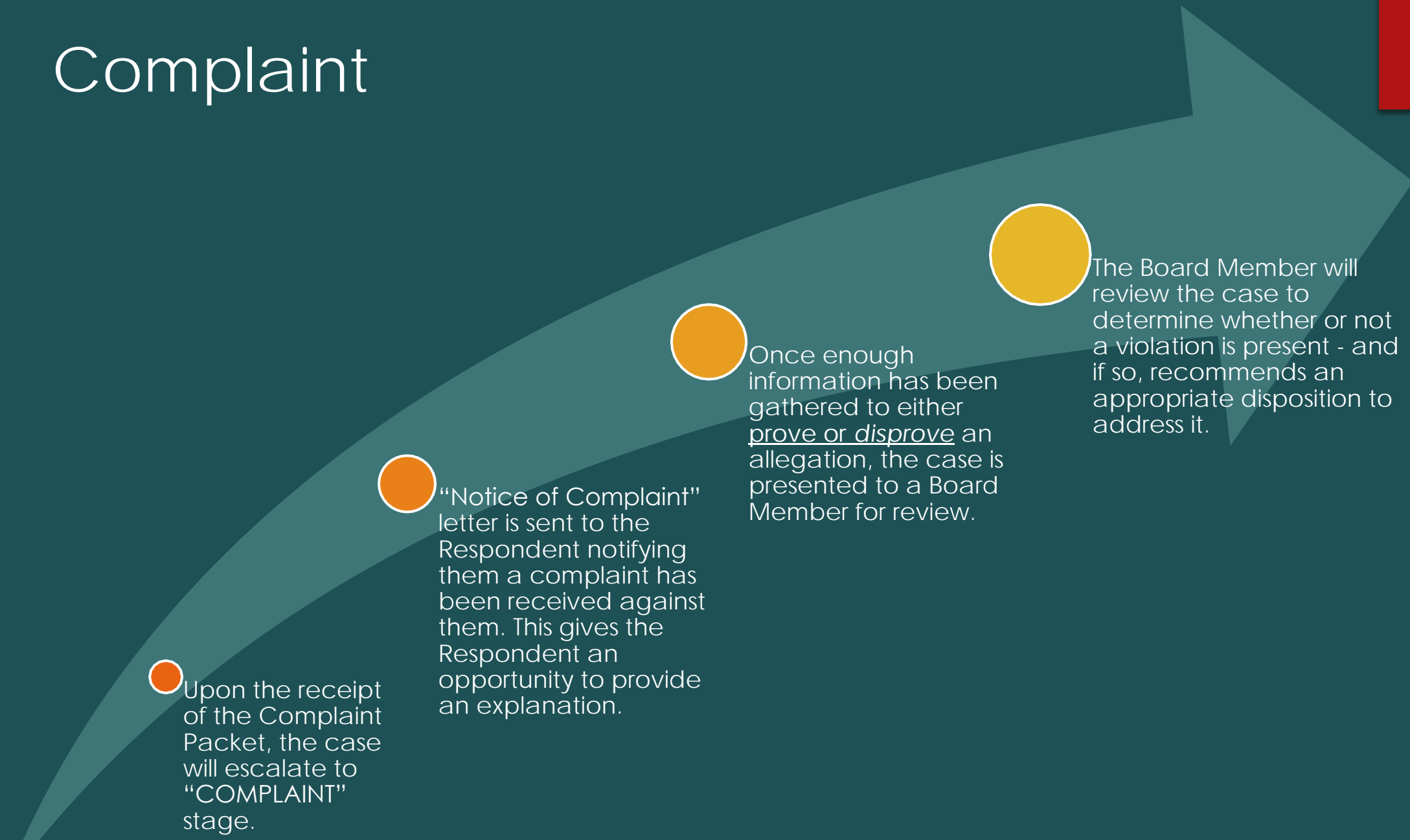
- Escalates when a Complaint Packet is received.

## INVESTIGATION:

Violation verified stage

- Following a Board Member review, case escalates when a Board Member confirms a violation is present.

# Complaint



Upon the receipt of the Complaint Packet, the case will escalate to "COMPLAINT" stage.

"Notice of Complaint" letter is sent to the Respondent notifying them a complaint has been received against them. This gives the Respondent an opportunity to provide an explanation.

Once enough information has been gathered to either prove or disprove an allegation, the case is presented to a Board Member for review.

The Board Member will review the case to determine whether or not a violation is present - and if so, recommends an appropriate disposition to address it.

# Investigation

Violation is verified, case escalates to "INVESTIGATION"  
"Notice of Investigation" letter is sent to the Respondent explaining WHY his/her actions were violation(s).



## Board Member's Recommendation:

1. Non-disciplinary Letter of Advisement  
(Closes Case)

2. License Action  
(Consent Agreement, Fine, Suspension, etc..)



## License Action:

Offered to Respondent

1. If agrees, License Action is presented to Board for adoption: If adopted, closes case.

2. If disagrees & refuses, Division moves forward with the LITIGATION PROCESS & files an Accusation.



## Administrative Hearing:

Division prepares the case for Administrative Hearing and the case is presented to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

ALJ Decision is presented to the Board for final consideration.

# Investigation



After a licensed Board Member Reviewer determines a violation of statute or regulation is present:

- ▶ Case escalates to “INVESTIGATION”
- ▶ A Notice of Investigation (NOI) is sent to the Respondent, notifying them a violation was verified.
- ▶ RBM recommends the appropriate action (Disciplinary or Non-Disciplinary) to address the violation:

Disciplinary Action:

- ▶ Consent Agreement
  - Probation
  - Civil Fine
  - Continuing Education
- ▶ Imposition of Civil Fine
- ▶ Suspension
- ▶ Revocation
- ▶ Etc..

Non-Disciplinary Action:

Non-Disciplinary Letter of Advisement

# Three Investigation Case Types

- ▶ Application Matters: Inquires initiated by Licensing to review applications for truthfulness, accuracy and if there is a violation requiring board action.
- ▶ Consumer Complaints: Inquiries initiated upon the receipt of a Complaint Packet (or written complaint).
- ▶ Inspections: Onsite inspections to ensure operations are in accordance to AS 43.70 & 12 AAC 12



# Confidentiality

- Investigations are required by statute to be kept confidential.
- This often prevents the complainant, licensee, and the Board from obtaining progress reports or information that may disclose the current status of an open investigation.
- This also protects the reputation of licensees who may be accused of wrongdoing but the allegations against them are unproven.
- Cases often involve other agencies, businesses, and practices; disclosing information during an on-going case can compromise the investigation, create conflicts for reviewing Board members, or result in unnecessary hardship to the licensee.

# Questions / Discussion

INVESTIGATIVE OVERVIEW



# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #17



Advisory Opinion Discussion

Use of Nitrous Oxide

Discussion:

Regarding current Nitrous practice and if the advisory opinion could be retired or if it needs revision.



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Main: 907.269.8161  
Toll free fax: 907.269.8156  
Email  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofNursing.aspx>

An Advisory Opinion adopted by the Alaska Board of Nursing (AKBON) is an interpretation of Alaska law. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is the AKBON's official opinion on whether certain nursing procedures, policies, and other practices comply with the standards of nursing practice in Alaska. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk. *The Alaska Board of Nursing publishes Advisory Opinions regarding the safe nursing practice, in accordance with AS 08.68.100(a)(9).*

**OPINION: Use of Nitrous Oxide**  
**APPROVED DATE: May 15, 2025**  
**REVIEWED DATE: April 15, 2025**  
**REVISED DATE: April 15, 2025**

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of  APRN  RN  LPN  CNA

## ADVISORY OPINION

The Alaska State Board of Nursing (AKBON) receives frequent questions regarding the administration of Nitrous Oxide. The purpose of this opinion is to provide guidance for APRNs & registered nurses working in various settings with adult and pediatric populations administering a 50:50 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O concentration for various procedures.

*\*This opinion does not apply to CRNAs who are able to give higher concentrations of nitrous oxide per their education and training.*

### Background/Analysis-Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)

#### Classification

Inhalation Anesthetic

#### Indications

Appropriate for cases which do not need a complete anesthetic (Example: Dental Anesthesia, labor analgesia)

**Dose**

For non-anesthesia personnel max 50:50 Oxygen/Nitrous mix

**Onset and Duration**

Onset: 1-5 minutes

Duration: 5-10 minutes after end of continuous administration

**Adverse Effects**

Confusion, seizures, hypoxemia, bone marrow depression (typically caused by decreased oxygen from improper administration. Inspired oxygen concentrations of at least 50% should be given.

**Precautions and Contraindications**

- Nitrous oxide is not flammable, but will support combustion
- Nitrous oxide diffuses into air-filled cavities 34 times faster than nitrogen can diffuse out, potentially leading to dangerous pressure buildup in enclosed spaces such as the middle ear, obstructed bowel, pneumothorax, pneumocephalus (could result in increased intracranial pressure, or air embolism. Caution should be taken in patients at risk for these conditions.
- Patients should be cautioned not to drive, operate other machinery or make any other major decisions until the effects of nitrous oxide have completely disappeared.
- This list is not exhaustive and those administering nitrous oxide should understand the risks and complications of nitrous oxide.

**RN Administration****Rationale**

The intention of nitrous oxide administration for the RN is minimal sedation. Minimal sedation is a drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. It is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to administer nitrous oxide for the purpose of minimal sedation (analgesia or anxiolytic use in adults and children over the age of one. Nitrous oxide will not be used to moderate or deep sedation.

**General Requirements - Adults**

1. Licensed Independent provider (LIP) must be readily available in the facility.
2. Candidates for nitrous oxide administration must be evaluated by the responsible LIP and assessed for appropriateness before initiation of therapy.
3. Written policies, procedures, and protocols are maintained by the facility and have been approved by the facility prior to implementation.
4. Policies, procedures and order sets will include the following
  - a. The use of nitrous for minimal sedation
  - b. Describe the role of the RN during nitrous administration
  - c. Specify frequency of assessment
  - d. Ensure a qualified LIP is available
  - e. Specify emergency equipment and medications to be immediately available including all emergency equipment and medication required to regain and/or maintain the patient's cardiovascular stability.

5. The facility must provide an instructional program that includes nitrous oxide administration/airway management with a minimum of six hours of instruction including theory and didactic management of nitrous oxide administration.
6. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed the instructional program and have documented initial and ongoing clinical competency on file with the employer may administer nitrous oxide.
7. Current BLS and ACLS on file with the facility
8. Continuous pulse oximetry will be monitored during nitrous oxide administration
9. The RN responsible for nitrous oxide administration shall not leave the patient or be engaged in any other tasks besides monitoring the patient.
10. The RN has the right and responsibility to refuse to administer any medication that may induce procedural sedation when in their professional judgement a state of moderate or deep sedation may be produced or place the patient at risk for complications.
11. The dosage parameters are established through patient specific written/electronic order signed by the LIP
12. The RN may administer and/or discontinue to nitrous oxide as ordered by the LIP.

#### Course Of Instruction

1. Age specific anatomy and physiology
2. Age specific pre-sedation assessment
3. Pharmacologic properties of nitrous oxide/oxygen
4. Indications/contraindications of nitrous oxide
5. Indications/contraindications of nitrous oxide
6. Techniques of administration, titration, and termination of nitrous oxide use
7. Level of consciousness assessment and physiological response to nitrous oxide
8. Airway management
9. Emergency situation management and appropriate interventions
10. Abuse potential
11. Occupational exposure to nitrous
12. Legal implications, responsibility, documentation
13. Nursing roles and responsibilities

#### **Pediatric Specific Considerations**

##### General Requirements

1. Use of failsafe equipment with a scavenger system must be used
2. The RN has successfully completed 6 hours training that includes didactic, skills, and competency demonstration. See course requirements.
3. The nitrous percent does not exceed 70% and pulse oximetry is continuously monitored.
4. Once additional medications are used in concert with nitrous oxide the RN must also meet the additional requirements of sedation under the board of nursing conscious sedation advisory opinion.
5. A LIP dedicated specifically to sedation must be at the bedside if any additional medications that may cause sedation, relaxation, or paralytics are used. See advisory on RN administered conscious sedation.
6. Patients are assessed by LIP prior to the administration of nitrous oxide.
7. The RN is responsible for obtaining verbal consent. The LIP is responsible for providing written orders or an order set. The specific dosage parameters are established by the LIP in

- writing prior to RN administration of nitrous oxide. The RN may titrate the nitrous oxide with the parameters determined by written orders.
8. There are facility policies and procedures approved in place.
  9. Dosimetry is available in accordance with the facilities policies and procedures.
  10. Signage for nitrous oxide use must be in use during administration.
  11. The RN must hold current BLS and PALS certification on file at the facility.
  12. An RN is dedicated to nitrous administration and must remain with the patient. RN may not engage in other tasks that could compromise the continuous monitoring of the patient airway and/or level of consciousness.
  13. The RN has the right and responsibility to refuse to administer any medication that may induce procedural sedation when in the professional judgement of the RN, the medication or combination of medications, the dosages prescribed, or frequency of administration may produce a state of moderate or deep sedation or place the patient at risk for complications.
  14. Due to occupational exposure risk, RNs may refuse participation.

### **Self-Administration**

Self-Administration of a 50:50 oxygen/nitrous oxide mixture is frequently seen in obstetrics but is not limited to this setting. If educational and other safety requirements are met, nitrous can be administered in a variety of settings and for many case types.

### **Obstetrics**

#### Recommendations

1. The licensed independent practitioner managing the labor and delivery must be readily available and is responsible for:
2. Maternal-fetal assessment for suitability for absence of contraindications.
3. Patient and family education about the nature of “self-administration” including the safety feature that when a woman has physiologically reached her limit, she will no longer be able to hold the mask to her face, thus self-regulating her intake.

The RN is responsible for:

1. Reinforcing patient and family education about the nature of “self-administration”
2. Setting up the 50:50 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O delivery system
3. Monitoring the 50:50 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O delivery system for accuracy and safety
4. Ongoing patient assessment for response to and effectiveness of O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O self-administered analgesia including continuous pulse oximetry
5. Discontinuing the 50:50 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O delivery system when
  - a. There is evidence of maternal or fetal compromise
  - b. The patient chooses to discontinue
  - c. The patient is non-compliant with self-administration instructions
6. In the event the patient is receiving inadequate analgesia with N<sub>2</sub>O alone, the LIP managing the labor and delivery of the patient pay order the addition of IV opioid pain medications and/or regional anesthesia. When these modalities are used in conjunction with N<sub>2</sub>O, the following criteria must be met:
  - a. LIP managing the labor and delivery of the patient must document physical assessment of the patient’s neuro status to include being awake and alert with intact motor and sensory function.
  - b. Continue continuous pulse oximetry monitoring

- c. RN will monitor and document patient neurological status with a validated sedation scale.

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# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #19



Develop 2026 BON Meeting Schedule

# Alaska Board of Nursing



For the Good of the Order

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Chair Final Comments/Adjourn

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #1



Roll Call/Call to Order

# Alaska Board of Nursing Executive Session



The public attendees will wait in the waiting room.

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #22



Disciplinary Matrix Update

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Disciplinary Guidelines and Proposed Sanctions

This document outlines common **application issues, professional conduct violations, substance abuse concerns, and prescribing violations**, along with the **recommended disciplinary actions**.

Fine guidelines are based on license level:

### License Type Standard Fine

CNA	\$500
LPN	\$1,000
RN	\$2,500
APRN	\$5,000

---

### 1. Application Issues – Failure to Disclose

**Applicant answered “No” but should have answered “Yes”**

#### 1.1 Failure to disclose previous disciplinary action

##### Professional Fitness Question #1:

*Has your professional license in any state or country ever been denied, revoked, suspended, stipulated, on probation, or been subject to restriction or disciplinary action?*

**Possible violation of AS 08.68.270(1)** *The Board may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who has obtained or attempted to obtain a license to practice nursing by fraud or deceit*

##### Sanction

- Fine according to license level **This can be done with just an Imposition of Civil Fine**
- Reprimand **A Reprimand would need to be done within a Consent Agreement**

##### If minor violation or not intentional

- Non-Disciplinary Letter of Advisement
-

## 1.2. Failure to disclose criminal history

### Professional Fitness Question #2:

*Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony (including suspended imposition of sentence)?*

#### Possible violation of:

*(For LPNs, RNs and APRNs) AS 08.68.270 The Board may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who*

*(1) has obtained or attempted to obtain a license to practice nursing by fraud or deceit;*

*(2) has been convicted of a felony or other crime if the felony or other crime is substantially related\* to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the licensee;*

*(For CNAs) AS 08.68.334 The board may deny a certification to, or impose a disciplinary sanction authorized under AS 08.01.075 against, a person who*

*(1) has obtained or attempted to obtain certification as a nurse aide by fraud, deceit, or intentional misrepresentation;*

*(2) has been convicted of a crime substantially related\* to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a certified nurse aide;*

*\*("substantially related" crimes are defined in 12 AAC 44.705)*

#### Sanction

- Fine according to license level **This can be done with just an Imposition of Civil Fine**
- Reprimand **A Reprimand would need to be done within a Consent Agreement**
- Denial of license or certification for crimes listed under 12 AAC 44.705

#### If minor violation or not intentional

- Non-Disciplinary Letter of Advisement

---

## 1.3 Reported Criminal History

**Crimes listed under 12 AAC 44.705 (1) murder;(2) manslaughter;(3) criminally negligent homicide;(4) assault;( 5) sexual assault;( 6) sexual abuse of a minor;(7) unlawful**

exploitation of a minor, including possession or distribution of child pornography;(8) incest;(9) indecent exposure;(10) robbery;(11) extortion;(12) stalking;(13) kidnapping;(14) theft;(15) burglary;(16) forgery;(17) endangering the welfare of a child;(18) endangering the welfare of a vulnerable adult;(19) unlawful distribution or possession for distribution of a controlled substance; for purposes of this paragraph, "controlled substance" has the meaning given in AS 11.71.900;(20) reckless endangerment.

### Sanction

- Denial of license or certificate

---

## 2. Substance Abuse

### Possible violation of:

*(For LPNs, RNs and APRNs) AS 08.68.270 The Board may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who*

*(3) habitually abuses alcoholic beverages, or illegally uses controlled substances*

*(7) is guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by regulations adopted by the board*

*12 AAC 44.770. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. Nursing conduct that could adversely affect the health and welfare of the public constitutes unprofessional conduct under AS 08.68.270(7) and includes the following: (8) using alcohol or other drugs to the extent that the use interferes with nursing functions;*

*(For CNAs) 08.68.334. Grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of certificate. The board may deny a certification to, or impose a disciplinary sanction authorized under AS 08.01 .075 against, a person who (5) is incapable of working as a certified nurse aide with reasonable skill, competence, and safety for the public because of (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or a drug that impairs the licensee's ability to practice safely;*

*12 AAC 44.870. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. (b) Unprofessional conduct includes conduct that could adversely affect the health and welfare of a client, including (8) using alcohol or other drugs to the extent that the use interferes with nurse aide functions;*

### 2.1 Reported Substance Abuse Within the Past 5 Years

Professional Fitness Question #5:

*Are you currently participating in a substance abuse or drug/alcohol treatment program, or diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder that affects your ability to practice safely?*

April 2026

## **Standard Sanction**

**Five-year Substance Abuse Consent Agreement** (can be adjusted for previous amounts of documented treatment/sobriety)

Typical conditions may include:

- Substance abuse evaluation by board-approved professional
  - 5 years probation
  - 1-year license suspension (stayed)
  - Random drug/alcohol testing
  - Attendance at rehabilitation counseling
  - Required participation in support groups (AA/NA)
  - Quarterly employer reports
  - Quarterly licensee reports
  - Board meetings as requested
  - Possible practice restrictions such as not working in facilities where controlled substances are available and no remote work locations
  - Reprimand
- 

## **2.2 Self-Reported Substance Abuse and request for Alternative to Probation (ATP)\***

**To qualify for ATP, the substance abuse must be self-reported, have no drug diversion aspect and not have any impact on employer or patients**

### **Sanction:**

- Standard Five-year consent agreement as noted in 2.1
- One-year suspension (stayed)
  - Suspension imposed but not served unless violations occur

\*ATP Consent Agreements are not publicly available through national databases or the AK CBPL website

---

### **2.3 Self-Reported Substance Abuse With Drug Diversion**

**Sanction:**

- Standard Five-year consent agreement as noted in 2.1
  - One-year suspension (stayed)
  - Possible fine according to license level
  - Reprimand
- 

### **2.4 Report from Employer or Other Source (No Drug Diversion)**

**Sanction:**

- Standard Five-year consent agreement as noted in 2.1
  - One-year suspension with 6 months stayed
  - Reprimand
  - Mandatory employment restriction -No access to controlled substances, No remote work locations
- 

### **2.5 Mandatory Report With Drug Diversion (No Patient Harm)**

**Sanction:**

- Standard Five-year consent agreement as noted in 2.1
  - One-year suspension with 6 months stayed
  - Reprimand
  - Mandatory employment restriction -No access to controlled substances, No remote work locations
  - Possible fine according to license level
- 

### **2.6 Mandatory Report With Drug Diversion and Patient Harm**

**Sanctions may include:**

- All of the above

- **Up to license revocation or surrender**
- 

### **3. Unprofessional Conduct** *(For LPNs, RNs and APRNs)*

**Possible violation of:** AS 08.68.270 *The Board may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who (7) is guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by regulations adopted by the board; see 12 AAC 44.770 or below for specific violations*

#### **Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Additional Continuing Education courses on related topics
- Fine according to license level

**3.1 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770(3) knowingly delegating a nursing care function, task, or responsibility to another who is not licensed under AS 08.68 to perform that function, task, or responsibility, when the delegation is contrary to AS 08.68 or 12 AAC 44 or involves a substantial risk or harm to a client; **or**

(4) failing to exercise adequate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of the licensed professional;

#### **Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level

**3.2 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770 (5) failing to perform acts within the nurse's scope of practice which are necessary to prevent substantial risk or harm to a client;

#### **Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level
- Continuing education
- Reprimand

**3.3 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770 (6) violating the confidentiality of information or knowledge concerning a client;

**Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level
- Continuing education
- Reprimand

**3.4 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770(7) neglecting or abusing a client by one of the following means: (A) physically; (B) emotionally; (C) verbally;

**Sanctions:**

- Fine according to license level
- Probation
- Continued Education
- Suspension of license
- Reprimand

**3.5 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770(10) failing to maintain a record for each client which accurately reflects the nursing problems and interventions for the client, or falsifying a client's records or intentionally making an incorrect entry in a client's chart;

**Sanctions:**

- Fine according to license level
- Probation
- Continued Education
- Suspension of license
- Reprimand

**3.6 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770(11) leaving a nursing assignment without properly notifying appropriate personnel;

**Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level
- Continuing education
- Reprimand

**3.7 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.770(31) failing to cooperate with an official investigation by the board's representatives, including failing to timely provide requested information; **or**

12 AAC 44.770(33) failing to cooperate with the department in an audit under of 12 AAC 02.960 - 12 AAC 02.965 of the continuing competency activities claimed by the licensee;

**Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level
- Reprimand

**3.A Unprofessional Conduct** *(For CNAs)* **12 AAC 44.870(a)** *A certified nurse aide, who after a hearing under AS 44.62.330 - AS 44.62.630 (Administrative Procedure Act), is found to have committed an act or omission that is described in AS 08.68.334, or that constitutes unprofessional conduct under this section, is subject to the disciplinary penalties listed in AS 08.01.075. (b) Unprofessional conduct includes conduct that could adversely affect the health and welfare of a client; see 12 AAC 44.870 or below for specific violations*

**3.A.1 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.870(1) failing to competently perform the duties of a certified nurse aide;

**Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level
- Continuing education
- Reprimand

**3.A.2 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.870(2) assuming the duties and responsibilities of a certified nurse aide, on repeated occasions, without sufficient preparation for those duties, or performing duties for which competency has not been maintained; **or**

(3) performing acts beyond the authorized scope or the level for which the person is certified;

**Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level

- Continuing education
- Reprimand

**3.A.3 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.870(5) violating the confidentiality of client information;

**Sanctions:**

- Advisement Letter
- Fine according to license level
- Continuing education
- Reprimand

**3.A.4 Possible violation of:** 12 AAC 44.870(7) neglecting or abusing a client physically, emotionally, or verbally;

**Sanctions:**

- Option to Surrender license
- Revocation
- Reported to CNA Abuse Registry

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Break

# Alaska Board of Nursing

## Agenda Item #23



Discuss Next Meetings Agenda

# Alaska Board of Nursing



For the Good of the Order

# Alaska Board of Nursing



Chair Final Comments/Adjourn