

Board Members:

Brent Taylor, MD
(Chair)

Lydia Mielke
Public Member
(Secretary)

David Barnes, DO

Matt Heilala, DPM

David Paulson, MD

Samantha Smith, PA

David Wilson
Public Member

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

DRAFT – AGENDA - REVISED

Only authorized members will be permitted to remain in the Board/Zoom room during executive / deliberative sessions.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/4v3uyT-7RqWBEXiyoGLWrA>

Agenda

- 4:00 p.m. 1. Call to Order / Roll Call
- 4:02 p.m. 2. Review / Approval of Agenda
- 4:05 p.m. 3. Ethics Disclosure
- 4:10 p.m. 4. Board Interview
 - Salahuddin Ahmed, MD
- 4:30 p.m. 5. Investigations Update
 - Imposition of Civil Fines
 - 2023-001128, M.A.
 - 2024-000310, C.H.M.
 - 2024-000531, J.H.
 - 2023-000334, R.P.
 - Voluntary Surrender of License
 - 2019-000664. C.T.
- 4:45 p.m. 6. Division Update
 - Legislative Update:
 - HB 158 & SB 145, Professional Licensing; Temp Permits
 - SB 147 Pharmacist Prescription Authority
- 5:15 p.m. 7. Pharmacy Board Update – Dr. Ashley Shaber
- 5:30 p.m. 8. Wrap up / Adjourn
 - Next meeting: May 16, 2025, 9:00 AM (In-person)

Upcoming Meetings:

May 16, 2025

June 19, 2025

HOUSE BILL NO. 158

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 3/26/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to professional licensing; relating to temporary licenses for certain**
2 **professions; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 08.01 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 08.01.061. Temporary license.** (a) The department may issue a
6 temporary license to practice an occupation in AS 08.01.010 if

7 (1) the applicant

8 (A) is licensed or credentialed to practice the occupation in
9 another state or territory of the United States that

10 (i) has requirements for a license to practice the
11 occupation that are substantially equivalent to or greater than the
12 requirements listed in the applicable chapter of this title; and

13 (ii) authorizes a scope of practice substantially
14 equivalent to the scope of practice of the corresponding license in this

1 state; or

2 (B) does not hold a license to practice that occupation in
3 another jurisdiction but meets the qualifications and requirements for a license
4 under the applicable chapter of this title through military education, training,
5 and service under AS 08.01.064;

6 (2) at the time of application, the applicant is not subject to
7 disciplinary action related to the occupation in another jurisdiction or the subject of an
8 ongoing review or disciplinary proceeding by the licensing authority in that
9 jurisdiction;

10 (3) in the 10 years preceding the submission of an application, the
11 applicant has not committed an act in another jurisdiction that would constitute
12 grounds for the denial or revocation of a license, certificate, or permit to practice that
13 occupation at the time the act was committed; and

14 (4) the applicable fees are paid.

15 (b) If the department or applicable board requires that an applicant for a
16 professional license submit information related to a criminal history record check,
17 those requirements also apply to an applicant for a temporary license. The department
18 may grant a temporary license before obtaining the resulting report.

19 (c) If the department finds that a temporary license was secured through
20 deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation, the department may take disciplinary
21 action against the temporary license, including revoking the temporary license.

22 (d) A temporary license is valid for up to 180 days as determined by the
23 department. For each temporary license issued to an applicant, the applicant may
24 apply for one 180-day extension, which will be approved at the department's
25 discretion.

26 (e) Except as provided in (f) of this section, a temporary license for an
27 occupation listed in AS 08.01.010 satisfies the requirements to practice that
28 occupation.

29 (f) This section does not apply to an occupation regulated under AS 08.54 or
30 AS 08.62.

31 * **Sec. 2.** AS 08.01.062 is amended to read:

1 **Sec. 08.01.062. Courtesy licenses.** (a) A board established under this title
 2 [AND THE DEPARTMENT, WITH RESPECT TO AN OCCUPATION THAT IT
 3 REGULATES UNDER THIS TITLE,] may by regulation establish criteria for issuing
 4 a [TEMPORARY] courtesy license to nonresidents who enter the state so that, on a
 5 temporary basis, they may practice the occupation regulated by the board **for a**
 6 **limited purpose. A courtesy license may not authorize a licensee to engage in the**
 7 **general practice of the related occupation** [OR THE DEPARTMENT].

8 (b) The regulations adopted under (a) of this section may include limitations
 9 relating to the

- 10 (1) duration of the license's validity;
- 11 (2) scope of practice allowed under the license; and
- 12 (3) other matters considered important by the board [OR THE
 13 DEPARTMENT].

14 * **Sec. 3.** AS 08.01.063 is repealed and reenacted to read:

15 **Sec. 08.01.063. Portability of professional licenses for servicemembers and**
 16 **their spouses.** (a) Except as provided in (e) of this section and 50 U.S.C. 4025a, the
 17 department shall issue a license to practice an occupation in AS 08.01.010 that has an
 18 equivalent scope of practice as a certificate or license held by a servicemember or
 19 spouse of a servicemember if the servicemember or spouse relocates residence to the
 20 state in accordance with military orders, applies in a manner prescribed by the
 21 department, and meets the requirements of this section. An application under this
 22 section must include

- 23 (1) evidence satisfactory to the department that the applicant
 - 24 (A) has received military orders, or is the spouse of a
 25 servicemember who has received military orders, for military service in the
 26 state;
 - 27 (B) holds a license or certificate issued by the licensing
 28 authority of another state that
 - 29 (i) is in good standing with the licensing authority;
 - 30 (ii) has not been revoked or subject to discipline;
 - 31 (iii) does not have an investigation relating to

unprofessional conduct pending in any state relating to it; and

(iv) has not been voluntarily surrendered while under investigation for unprofessional conduct in any state; and

(C) is in good standing with the licensing authority of any state that has issued the applicant a license or certificate.

(2) a notarized affidavit affirming, under penalty of law, that

(A) the applicant is the person described and identified in the application;

(B) all statements made in the application are true and correct;

(C) the applicant has read and understands the requirements to receive a license and the scope of practice of that license type;

(D) the applicant will comply with the requirements to practice under the license, including requirements related to discipline and fulfillment of continuing education; and

(E) the applicant is in good standing with the licensing authority of

(i) the jurisdiction that issued the applicant's existing license or certificate; and

(ii) any other jurisdiction of a state, district, or territory of the United States that has issued the applicant a license or certificate;

(3) if the applicant is the spouse of a military servicemember, a copy of the marriage certificate; and

(4) payment of any applicable fees.

(b) If an applicant meets the requirements of (a) of this section, the department shall issue a license to the applicant within 30 days after receipt of the application. The department may extend the 30-day period only for the purpose of completing a criminal history record check under (d) of this section. If the department cannot issue the license within 30 days, the department may issue to the applicant a temporary license to practice the profession while the criminal history record check is pending.

(c) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, a license issued under this section is subject to the applicable department or board requirements for that license and for the

1 practice of the related profession, including renewal dates established under
2 AS 08.01.100.

3 (d) If the department or applicable board requires that an applicant for a
4 professional license submit information related to a criminal history record check, the
5 department may require an applicant under this section to meet the same requirements.

6 (e) This section does not apply to

7 (1) a profession not set out under AS 08.01.010; or

8 (2) a profession that is subject to an interstate licensing compact that
9 has been entered into by the state.

10 (f) In this section,

11 (1) "license" has the meaning given in 50 U.S.C. 4025a;

12 (2) "licensing authority" has the meaning given under 50 U.S.C.
13 4025a;

14 (3) "military orders" has the meaning given under 50 U.S.C. 4025a;

15 (4) "military service" has the meaning given under 50 U.S.C. 3911;

16 (5) "scope of practice" has the meaning given under 50 U.S.C. 4025a;

17 (6) "servicemember" has the meaning given in 50 U.S.C. 3911.

18 * **Sec. 4.** AS 08.13.070 is amended to read:

19 **Sec. 08.13.070. License required.** A person may not

20 (1) practice barbering, hairdressing, hair braiding, manicuring,
21 esthetics, body piercing, tattooing, or permanent cosmetic coloring without a license,
22 [TEMPORARY PERMIT,] temporary license under AS 08.01.061, or student permit
23 unless exempted under AS 08.13.160(d);

24 (2) practice barbering, hairdressing, hair braiding, manicuring,
25 esthetics, body piercing, tattooing, or permanent cosmetic coloring except in a shop or
26 school licensed under this chapter unless exempted under AS 08.13.160(d) or
27 permitted under AS 08.13.160(e);

28 (3) open or conduct a school of barbering, hairdressing, manicuring, or
29 esthetics without a license;

30 (4) teach in a school of barbering, hairdressing, manicuring, or
31 esthetics, or supervise an apprentice in barbering, hairdressing, manicuring, or

1 esthetics without an instructor's license;

2 (5) operate a shop in violation of AS 08.13.120;

3 (6) permit an employee or other person being supervised who is not
4 exempted under AS 08.13.160(d) to practice barbering, hairdressing, hair braiding,
5 manicuring, esthetics, body piercing, tattooing, or permanent cosmetic coloring
6 without a license, [TEMPORARY PERMIT,] temporary license under AS 08.01.061,
7 or student permit;

8 (7) permit the use of the person's license, [TEMPORARY PERMIT,]
9 temporary license under AS 08.01.061, or student permit by another person;

10 (8) obtain or attempt to obtain a license, [TEMPORARY PERMIT,]
11 temporary license under AS 08.01.061, or student permit by fraudulent means.

12 * **Sec. 5.** AS 08.13.120(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) The regulations adopted under (a) of this section must include provisions
14 under which the board may issue a temporary shop license to a person who has a
15 license or temporary license under AS 08.01.061 [PERMIT UNDER THIS
16 CHAPTER] to practice tattooing, permanent cosmetic coloring, or body piercing. The
17 temporary shop license authorized under this subsection may only be issued to cover a
18 site where the practitioner intends to hold a workshop or to demonstrate techniques as
19 part of a convention or other special event, as defined by the board, that includes other
20 practitioners of tattooing, permanent cosmetic coloring, or body piercing. Each
21 practitioner of tattooing, permanent cosmetic coloring, or body piercing who holds a
22 workshop or demonstrates techniques at a convention or special event shall have a
23 separate temporary shop license and a license or temporary license under
24 AS 08.01.061 [PERMIT UNDER THIS CHAPTER] to practice tattooing, permanent
25 cosmetic coloring, or body piercing. The board shall issue a temporary shop license
26 upon receipt of an application from a practitioner demonstrating compliance with the
27 regulations adopted under this section and payment of the appropriate fee; however,
28 the temporary shop license may be summarily revoked, without refunding of the fee, if
29 the Department of Environmental Conservation determines after an inspection that the
30 cleanliness or sanitation conditions at the site covered by the temporary shop license
31 pose a clear and immediate danger to the public health or safety. A licensee may

1 appeal a summary revocation under this subsection to the superior court.

2 * **Sec. 6.** AS 08.13.130(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) A practitioner shall display the practitioner's license in a conspicuous
 4 location in the practitioner's place of business. Each shop owner is responsible for the
 5 conspicuous display of the shop's license and the licenses of employees and
 6 individuals renting booths in the shop. A person holding a student permit or [,]
 7 temporary license under AS 08.01.061 [, OR TEMPORARY PERMIT] shall display
 8 the permit or license in a conspicuous location in the school in which the person is
 9 enrolled or the shop in which the person works. The school or shop owner is
 10 responsible for the display of a permit or license for each enrolled student, apprentice,
 11 or temporary license holder.

12 * **Sec. 7.** AS 08.13.150 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 08.13.150. Disciplinary sanctions and grounds for refusal of a license**
 14 **or permit.** The board may, in addition to the actions authorized under AS 08.01.075,
 15 refuse, suspend, or revoke a license, temporary shop license, student permit, or
 16 temporary license under AS 08.01.061 [, OR TEMPORARY PERMIT] for failure to
 17 comply with this chapter, with a regulation adopted under this chapter, with a
 18 regulation adopted by the Department of Environmental Conservation under
 19 AS 44.46.020, or with an order of the board.

20 * **Sec. 8.** AS 08.13.175 is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 08.13.175. Temporary license.** A person who receives a temporary
 22 license under AS 08.01.061 must work [MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF
 23 AS 08.13.080(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), OR (6) IS ENTITLED TO BE TEMPORARILY
 24 LICENSED AFTER APPLYING FOR EXAMINATION UNDER THIS CHAPTER
 25 IF THE APPLICANT WORKS] under the direct supervision, and within the physical
 26 presence, of a person who is licensed under this chapter. [IN THE AREA OF
 27 PRACTICE FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT HAS APPLIED FOR
 28 EXAMINATION. A TEMPORARY LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS
 29 VALID FOR 120 DAYS AND IS NONRENEWABLE. A PERSON MAY NOT
 30 RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR EACH AREA OF
 31 PRACTICE LICENSED UNDER THIS CHAPTER. AN APPLICATION FOR A

1 TEMPORARY LICENSE MUST BE SIGNED BY THE SUPERVISING LICENSEE
 2 AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE TEMPORARY LICENSE FEE REQUIRED
 3 UNDER AS 08.13.185.]

4 * **Sec. 9.** AS 08.13.185(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
 6 shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for initial licenses and renewals for the following:

- 7 (1) schools;
- 8 (2) school owners;
- 9 (3) instructor;
- 10 (4) shop owner;
- 11 (5) practitioner of barbering;
- 12 (6) practitioner of hairdressing;
- 13 (7) practitioner of manicuring;
- 14 (8) practitioner of esthetics;
- 15 (9) practitioner of tattooing;
- 16 (10) practitioner of body piercing;
- 17 (11) temporary shop license;
- 18 (12) [TEMPORARY PERMIT;
- 19 (13)] temporary license;
- 20 **(13)** [(14)] student permit;
- 21 **(14)** [(15)] endorsement for advanced manicuring;
- 22 **(15)** [(16)] practitioner of hair braiding;
- 23 **(16)** [(17)] practitioner of permanent cosmetic coloring;
- 24 **(17)** [(18)] practitioner of non-chemical barbering.

25 * **Sec. 10.** AS 08.13.190 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 08.13.190. Failure to possess a license or permit.** (a) A person who
 27 practices barbering, hairdressing, hair braiding, esthetics, tattooing, permanent
 28 cosmetic coloring, or body piercing, or operates a shop, or operates a school of
 29 barbering, hairdressing, or esthetics, or teaches in a school of barbering, hairdressing,
 30 or esthetics, without a license, [TEMPORARY PERMIT,] temporary license **under**
 31 **AS 08.01.061**, or student permit and who is not exempt under AS 08.13.120 or under

AS 08.13.160(d) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

(b) A person who practices manicuring, operates a shop for manicuring, operates a school of manicuring, or teaches in a school of manicuring without the appropriate license, [TEMPORARY PERMIT,] temporary license under AS 08.01.061, or student permit and who is not exempt under AS 08.13.120 or 08.13.160(d) is guilty of a violation.

* **Sec. 11.** AS 08.20.180(a) is amended to read:

(a) An applicant for an examination, reexamination, issuance of a temporary license [PERMIT] under AS 08.01.061 [AS 08.20.160, ISSUANCE OF A LOCUM TENENS PERMIT UNDER AS 08.20.163], issuance of a license by credentials under AS 08.20.141, one-time issuance of a retired status license, or initial issuance or renewal of an active or inactive license shall pay a fee established under AS 08.01.065.

* **Sec. 12.** AS 08.36.100 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.36.100. License required. Except as provided in AS 08.36.238 [AND 08.36.254], a person may not practice, or attempt to practice, dentistry without a license.

* **Sec. 13.** AS 08.64.279 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.64.279. Interview for permit or temporary license [PERMITS]. An applicant for an intern permit or a temporary license under AS 08.01.061 [, A RESIDENT PERMIT, OR A TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR LOCUM TENENS PRACTICE] may be interviewed in person by the board, a member of the board, the executive secretary of the board, or a person designated for that purpose by the board.

* **Sec. 14.** AS 08.64.315 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.64.315. Fees. The department shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for each of the following:

- (1) application;
- (2) license by examination;
- (3) license by endorsement or waiver of examination;
- (4) [TEMPORARY PERMIT;
- (5) LOCUM TENENS PERMIT;

1 (6)] license renewal, active;

2 **(5)** [(7)] license renewal, inactive;

3 **(6) temporary license under AS 08.01.061;**

4 **(7)** [(8)] license by reexamination.

5 * **Sec. 15.** AS 08.68.220 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 08.68.220. Fees.** The Department of Commerce, Community, and
7 Economic Development shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for each of the following:

8 (1) registered nursing:

9 (A) application;

10 (B) license by examination;

11 (C) license by endorsement;

12 (D) license renewal;

13 (E) temporary **license under AS 08.01.061** [PERMIT];

14 (2) practical nursing:

15 (A) application;

16 (B) license by examination;

17 (C) license by endorsement;

18 (D) license renewal;

19 (E) temporary **license under AS 08.01.061** [PERMIT];

20 (3) advanced practice registered nursing:

21 (A) application;

22 (B) license by certification examination;

23 (C) license by endorsement;

24 (D) license renewal;

25 (E) temporary **license under AS 08.01.061** [PERMIT].

26 * **Sec. 16.** AS 08.68.230(d) is amended to read:

27 (d) A person who holds a temporary **license under AS 08.01.061** [PERMIT]
28 to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall use the title "Temporary Licensed
29 Practical Nurse" and the abbreviation "TLPN."

30 * **Sec. 17.** AS 08.84.010(b) is amended to read:

31 (b) The board shall control all matters pertaining to the licensing of physical

therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupational therapists, and occupational therapy assistants and the practice of physical therapy and the practice of occupational therapy **under this chapter**. The board shall

- (1) pass upon the qualifications of applicants;
- (2) provide for the examination of applicants;
- (3) issue [TEMPORARY PERMITS AND] licenses to persons qualified under this chapter;
- (4) suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license under AS 08.84.120;
- (5) keep a current register listing the name, business address, date, and number of the license of each person who is licensed to practice under this chapter;
- (6) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including regulations establishing qualifications for licensure and renewal of licensure under this chapter.

* **Sec. 18.** AS 08.84.050 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.84.050. Fees. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for the following:

- (1) application;
- (2) license by examination;
- (3) license by acceptance of credentials;
- (4) renewal;
- (5) temporary **license under AS 08.01.061** [PERMIT;
- (6) LIMITED PERMIT].

* **Sec. 19.** AS 08.84.150 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.84.150. License required; exceptions. (a) It is unlawful for a person to practice physical therapy without being licensed under this chapter unless the person is

- (1) a student in an accredited physical therapy program;
- (2) a graduate of a foreign school of physical therapy fulfilling the internship requirement of AS 08.84.032, and then only unless under the continuous direction and immediate supervision of a physical therapist; or

(3) issued a **temporary license** [LIMITED PERMIT] under **AS 08.01.061** [AS 08.84.075].

(b) A person may not provide services that the person describes as occupational therapy without being licensed under this chapter unless the person is

(1) a student in an accredited occupational therapy program or in a supervised field work program;

(2) a graduate of a foreign school of occupational therapy fulfilling the internship requirement of AS 08.84.032, and then only unless under the continuous direction and immediate supervision of an occupational therapist;

(3) an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant employed by the United States government while in the discharge of official duties;

(4) granted a **temporary license** [LIMITED PERMIT] under **AS 08.01.061** [AS 08.84.075];

(5) licensed under this title and uses occupational therapy skills in the practice of the profession for which the license is issued; or

(6) employed as a teacher or teacher's aide by an educational institution and is required to use occupational therapy skills during the course of employment, if

(A) the occupational therapy skills are used under a program implemented by the employer and developed by a licensed occupational therapist;

(B) the employer maintains direct supervision of the person's use of occupational therapy skills; and

(C) the person does not represent to

(i) be an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; and

(ii) practice occupational therapy.

* **Sec. 20.** AS 08.98.120(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person may not practice veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry unless the person is licensed as a veterinarian under this chapter or has a temporary **license** [PERMIT ISSUED] under **AS 08.01.061** [AS 08.98.186], except that a person may

perform functions authorized by

(1) regulation of the board if the person is licensed as a veterinary technician; or

(2) a permit issued under AS 08.02.050 if the person is employed by an agency that has a permit issued under AS 08.02.050.

* **Sec. 21.** AS 08.98.180 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.98.180. Temporary license. A person who is granted a temporary license by the department under AS 08.01.061 must work [MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF AS 08.98.165(a)(1), (4), AND (5) IS ENTITLED TO BE TEMPORARILY LICENSED AFTER APPLYING FOR EXAMINATION IF THE PERSON WORKS] under the supervision of a [LICENSED] veterinarian licensed under this chapter. [A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS VALID UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATIONS ARE PUBLISHED. A PERSON MAY NOT RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE TEMPORARY LICENSE. AN APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY LICENSE MUST BE SIGNED BY THE SUPERVISING VETERINARIAN AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE TEMPORARY LICENSE FEE REQUIRED UNDER AS 08.98.190.]

* **Sec. 22.** AS 08.98.190 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.98.190. Fees. The department shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for the following:

- (1) application;
- (2) examination;
- (3) investigation of credentials;
- (4) license;
- (5) license renewal;
- (6) temporary license under AS 08.01.061 [;
- (7) TEMPORARY PERMIT].

* **Sec. 23.** AS 08.01.064(b), 08.01.064(c), 08.01.064(d); AS 08.11.020, 08.11.025; AS 08.13.170; AS 08.15.030; AS 08.20.160, 08.20.163; AS 08.26.050; AS 08.36.254; AS 08.45.035(a), 08.45.035(b); AS 08.63.130; AS 08.64.101(b)(2), 08.64.270, 08.64.275; AS 08.68.210; AS 08.70.130; AS 08.80.150, 08.80.155; AS 08.84.065, 08.84.075;

1 AS 08.86.135, 08.86.166; AS 08.95.125; and AS 08.98.186 are repealed.

2 * **Sec. 24.** 12 AAC 02.956, 12 AAC 02.957, 12 AAC 04.184, 12 AAC 14.135, 12 AAC
3 16.206, 12 AAC 18.108, 12 AAC 19.116, 12 AAC 28.958, 12 AAC 36.112, 12 AAC 40.046,
4 12 AAC 44.312, 12 AAC 48.035, 12 AAC 52.105, 12 AAC 54.130, 12 AAC 54.660, 12 AAC
5 60.032, 12 AAC 62.135, 12 AAC 64.066, 12 AAC 68.043, 12 AAC 70.135, and 12 AAC
6 79.115 are annulled.

7 * **Sec. 25.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
8 read:

9 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Commerce, Community, and
10 Economic Development may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by
11 this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not
12 before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

13 * **Sec. 26.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
14 read:

15 TRANSITION: SAVINGS CLAUSE. (a) Litigation, hearings, investigations, appeals,
16 and other proceedings pending under a law amended or repealed by this Act continue in effect
17 and may be continued and completed notwithstanding a transfer or amendment or repeal
18 provided for in this Act.

19 (b) Certificates, orders, permits, licenses, and regulations issued or adopted under the
20 authority of a law amended or repealed by this Act remain in effect for the term issued, or
21 until revoked, vacated, or otherwise modified under the provisions of this Act.

22 (c) Contracts, rights, liabilities, and obligations created by or under a law amended or
23 repealed by this Act, and in effect on the effective date of this Act, remain in effect
24 notwithstanding this Act's taking effect.

25 * **Sec. 27.** Sections 3, 25, and 26 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

26 * **Sec. 28.** Except as provided in sec. 27 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2026.

SENATE BILL NO. 147

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR GIESSEL BY REQUEST

Introduced: 3/26/25

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the prescription and administration of drugs and devices by**
2 **pharmacists; relating to reciprocity for pharmacists; and providing for an effective**
3 **date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 08.80.030(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) In order to fulfill its responsibilities, the board has the powers necessary
7 for implementation and enforcement of this chapter, including the power to

8 (1) elect a president and secretary from its membership and adopt rules
9 for the conduct of its business;

10 (2) license by examination or by license transfer the applicants who are
11 qualified to engage in the practice of pharmacy;

12 (3) assist the department in inspections and investigations for
13 violations of this chapter, or of any other state or federal statute relating to the practice
14 of pharmacy;

- 1 (4) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter;
- 2 (5) establish and enforce compliance with professional standards and
- 3 rules of conduct for pharmacists engaged in the practice of pharmacy;
- 4 (6) determine standards for recognition and approval of degree
- 5 programs of schools and colleges of pharmacy whose graduates shall be eligible for
- 6 licensure in this state, including the specification and enforcement of requirements for
- 7 practical training, including internships;
- 8 (7) establish for pharmacists and pharmacies minimum specifications
- 9 for the physical facilities, technical equipment, personnel, and procedures for the
- 10 storage, compounding, and dispensing of drugs or related devices, and for the
- 11 monitoring of drug therapy, including independent monitoring of drug therapy;
- 12 (8) enforce the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct or
- 13 competence of pharmacists practicing in the state, and the suspension, revocation, or
- 14 restriction of licenses to engage in the practice of pharmacy;
- 15 (9) license and regulate the training, qualifications, and employment of
- 16 pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians;
- 17 (10) license and regulate the qualifications of entities and individuals
- 18 engaged in the manufacture or distribution of drugs and related devices;
- 19 (11) establish and maintain a controlled substance prescription
- 20 database as provided in AS 17.30.200;
- 21 (12) establish standards for the independent prescribing and
- 22 administration of vaccines and related emergency medications under AS 08.80.168,
- 23 including the completion of an immunization training program approved by the board
- 24 and an epinephrine auto-injector training program under AS 17.22.020(b);
- 25 (13) establish standards for the independent prescribing and dispensing
- 26 by a pharmacist of an opioid overdose drug under AS 17.20.085, including the
- 27 completion of an opioid overdose training program approved by the board;
- 28 (14) require that a licensed pharmacist who **prescribes, administers,**
- 29 **or** dispenses a **schedule IA, IIA, IIIA, IVA, or VA controlled substance under**
- 30 **state law or** schedule II, III, [OR] IV, **or V** controlled substance under federal law to a
- 31 person in the state register with the controlled substance prescription database under

AS 17.30.200(n);

(15) establish the qualifications and duties of the executive administrator and delegate authority to the executive administrator that is necessary to conduct board business;

(16) license and inspect the facilities of pharmacies, manufacturers, wholesale drug distributors, third-party logistics providers, and outsourcing facilities located outside the state under AS 08.80.159;

(17) license Internet-based pharmacies providing services to residents in the state;

(18) adopt regulations pertaining to retired pharmacist status.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.80.110 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.80.110. Qualifications for licensure by examination. An applicant for licensure as a pharmacist shall

(1) be fluent in the reading, writing, and speaking of the English language;

(2) be a graduate of a college in a degree program approved by the board;

(3) pass an examination or examinations given by the board or acceptable to the board under the score transfer process administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy;

(4) have completed internship training or another program that has been approved by the board or demonstrated to the board's satisfaction that the applicant has experience in the practice of pharmacy that meets or exceeds the minimum internship requirements of the board; and

(5) receive education in pain management and opioid use and addiction, unless the applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant does not currently hold a valid federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration number; an applicant may include past professional experience or professional education as proof of professional competence.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.80.145 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.80.145. Reciprocity; license transfer. If another jurisdiction allows

1 licensure in that jurisdiction of a pharmacist licensed in this state under conditions
 2 similar to those in this section, the board may license as a pharmacist in this state a
 3 person licensed as a pharmacist in the other jurisdiction if the person

4 (1) submits a written application to the board on a form required by the
 5 board;

6 (2) is at least 18 years of age;

7 (3) possesses at the time of the request for licensure as a pharmacist in
 8 this state the qualifications necessary to be eligible for licensure in this state;

9 (4) has engaged in the practice of pharmacy for at least one year
 10 immediately before applying for a license under this section;

11 (5) presents proof satisfactory to the board that the person is currently
 12 licensed as a pharmacist in the other jurisdiction and does not currently have a
 13 pharmacist license suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted except for failure to
 14 apply for renewal or failure to obtain the required continuing education credits;

15 (6) has passed an examination approved by the board that tests the
 16 person's knowledge of Alaska laws relating to pharmacies and pharmacists and the
 17 regulations adopted under those laws; [AND]

18 (7) meets the requirements of AS 08.80.110(5); and

19 (8) pays all required fees.

20 * Sec. 4. AS 08.80.165 is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 08.80.165. Continuing education requirements.** The board shall
 22 establish requirements for continuing education in pharmacy that must be satisfied
 23 before a license issued under this chapter may be renewed. The continuing education
 24 requirements must include at least two hours of education in pain management
 25 and opioid use and addiction in the two years preceding an application for
 26 renewal of a license. The board may exempt a licensee from the requirement to
 27 receive at least two hours of education in pain management and opioid use and
 28 addiction if the licensee demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that

29 (1) the licensee's practice does not include pain management and
 30 opioid prescription or administration; or

31 (2) the licensee does not currently hold a valid federal Drug

Enforcement Administration registration number.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 08.80.337(a) is amended to read:

(a) A pharmacist may, under a collaborative practice agreement with a written protocol approved by a practitioner **who is not a pharmacist**, provide patient care services.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 08.80.337(d) is amended to read:

(d) In this section, "patient care services" means medical care services, **including the prescription or administration of a drug or device to a patient, that are** given in exchange for compensation **and** intended to achieve outcomes related to the cure or prevention of a disease, elimination or reduction of a patient's symptoms, or arresting or slowing of a disease process.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 08.80.337 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(e) A pharmacist prescribing or administering a drug or device under this section shall recognize the limits of the pharmacist's education, training, and experience and consult with and refer to other practitioners as appropriate.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 08.80.480(30) is amended to read:

(30) "practice of pharmacy" means the interpretation, evaluation, and dispensing of prescription drug orders in the patient's best interest; participation in drug and device selection, drug administration, drug regimen reviews, and drug or drug-related research; provision of patient counseling and the provision of those acts or services necessary to provide pharmaceutical care; the independent prescribing, dispensing, and administration of drugs in accordance with AS 08.80.168; **providing patient care services in accordance with AS 08.80.337;** the responsibility for compounding and labeling of drugs and devices except labeling by a manufacturer, repackager, or distributor of nonprescription drugs and commercially packaged legend drugs and devices; proper and safe storage of drugs and devices; and maintenance of proper records for them;

* **Sec. 9.** AS 08.80.480 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(40) "opioid" includes the opium and opiate substances and opium and opiate derivatives listed in AS 11.71.140 and 11.71.160.

* **Sec. 10.** AS 08.80.337(c) is repealed.

1 * **Sec. 11.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

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April 17, 2025
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Statement of Opposition – SB 147, Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority

Dear Members of the Legislature,

Senate Bill 147 would effectively expand the prescriptive authority of pharmacists to prescribe and administer any medications, including controlled substances and abortion medications.

The authority to broadly prescribe any medication would mean pharmacists would have the ability to diagnose and therefore treat any medical condition. The diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions is the practice of medicine. The State Medical Board opposes pharmacists being granted the ability to practice medicine in Alaska.

The Alaska State Medical Board strongly urges you to vote against SB 147.

Sincerely,

Brent Taylor, M.D.
Chair



Why Alaska Needs the Nurse Licensure Compact

Alaska's Nurses Want to Join!

- **92% of Alaska's nurses want Alaska to join the NLC**; only 5% oppose; 3% had no opinion.
 - 60% list Alaska as their **primary state of residence**: 89% support, 7.5% oppose, 3.5% no opinion.
 - 25% state Alaska is the **first** U.S. jurisdiction where they ever held a license: 86% support, 10% oppose, 4% no opinion.
 - 23% stated they were **members of a union** during employment: 85% support, 12% oppose, 3% no opinion.
 - *This data is based on the survey sent out by the Board of Nursing to all Alaska-licensed registered nurses (RNs) and practical nurses (LPNs) in October 2023: [2023 NLC Survey Report](#).*
- These results mirror the **same level of support** demonstrated by the same survey conducted in 2019.
- The Alaska **Board of Nursing** has voted **unanimously in support of joining the NLC** since 2019.

Alaska's Nursing Shortage is Getting Worse!

- Alaska had a **21% vacancy rate in RN positions** in its hospitals.
- The average time to fill a vacant hospital RN position is **118 days** and **157 days** for a long-term care facility RN position due processing times for licensing & credentialing by the facility.
- Alaska needs over **1,350 new nursing** recruits annually.
- **Alaska is projected to lead the nation in nursing vacancy rates by 2030.**
- Nurse vacancies result in **less access to care for Alaskans**, clinic/facility closures, longer wait times at hospitals and ERs, and potentially delivery of lower standards of care.
 - This can **force Alaskans** who need adequate medical care **to move out of state**, especially as Alaska's senior population grows.
- *This data was provided by the [2023 Alaska Healthcare Workforce Analysis Report](#).*

We're Currently Losing New Nurses & Discouraging Existing Nurses from Moving Here!

- All of Alaska's nursing schools combined graduate around **325 nursing graduates** per year.
 - **Multistate licenses are appealing** to new graduates.
 - Many **nursing graduates leave** Alaska to establish residency in an NLC state so they can obtain a multistate license and operate as a travel nurse under one license.
 - Instructing in a nursing school in Alaska requires an Alaska license – joining the **NLC gives our nursing schools better access to nursing educators**, which makes it easier to "grow our own."
- **Nurses lose their multistate license if they establish residency** in a non-NLC state, so we're actively discouraging experienced nurses from establishing residency here and new nurses from remaining in, or returning to, the state.
- As of March 2025, **43 U.S. jurisdictions have joined the NLC** and six (6) have bills pending to join.
 - Only three (3) states and two (2) U.S. jurisdictions are not in the NLC or actively trying to join.
 - Two (2) of the states not currently pursuing the NLC have two of the three most populated cities in the U.S. and therefore are not experiencing the shortage of nurses we are – California and Illinois.

NLC is the Most Well-Vetted Professional Licensure Compact Out There!

- The NLC is the **longest-standing professional licensure compact** in the U.S., celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.
- **No U.S. jurisdiction has ever opted to exit from the NLC.**
- **Alaska has joined** the Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact and Audiology and Speech-Language Interstate Compact and is considering legislation to join additional compacts.
 - While we agree with the Legislature's decision to join these Compacts, they have lower **public safety guardrails** in place than the NLC, including the lack of experience/education requirements to qualify for a Physical Therapist Compact Privilege to practice in Alaska.
 - The Audiology and Speech-Language Interstate Compact **isn't operational yet**, so it hasn't even been tested.
- The NLC language adopted into statute requires **all states to ensure multistate licensees** meet requirements for licensure that are equal to, and in some areas higher, than Alaska's requirements.
- The **federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)** requires states to issue licensure to military members or spouses based on reciprocity without any requirement for the license from another U.S. jurisdiction to have even substantially equivalent requirements to Alaska's, if they don't have a Compact in place for that license type. **Compacts provide more public safety assurances than this current federal law.**
 - While this only applies to military members and their spouses right now, the federal government has, in the past, **threatened nationwide preemption to require reciprocity**.
 - The creation of the Compact was a direct effort to establish agreements between states that would accomplish the same goal but **allow states to have safeguards and standards** in place.

Alaska Retains State Sovereignty Under the NLC!

- **Alaska will retain state sovereignty and all regulatory authority of nursing practice in the state** regardless of the type of license held.
- All nurses are required to comply with the **nursing laws in the state** where the patient is located, which are set by the Alaska Legislature and the Alaska Board of Nursing. Joining the NLC does not change that.
- The Alaska Board of Nursing and the Dunleavy Administration **would not support the NLC otherwise.**

States Retain All Authority Over the NLC!

- Each NLC state must **adopt the standard compact language into their state statutes** without any material deviations to join.
- This means **the requirements of the NLC cannot change** without the passage of a bill by each NLC state's legislature.
- **Only the NLC Commission can amend or create rules and bylaws**, and those must only be within the authority given within the standard compact language adopted into statute.
- The NLC Commission is made up of **one voting member from each party state**.
- **No national or federal organization**, including the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, have a seat on the NLC Commission or **have any authority over the NLC** or nursing laws and licensure.

There is Overwhelming Support for Alaska to Join the NLC!

- **Alaska's nurses, and many Alaska residents** impacted by the nursing shortage, want Alaska to join.
- Additionally, **over 75 organizations have voiced their support for Alaska joining the NLC**, [including](#):
 - Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association (AHHA)
 - Alaska Chamber of Commerce
 - Alaska Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Alliance
 - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
 - Alaska State Medical Association
 - National Military Family Association
 - UAA School of Nursing