

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Alaska Board of Pharmacy

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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Alaska Board of Pharmacy
FY 2022 Annual Report

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**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Justin Ruffridge, PharmD Chair	Soldotna	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2023
Ashley Schaber, PharmD Vice Chair	Anchorage	Jul 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2024
James Henderson, RPh Secretary	Soldotna	Mar 1, 2017	Mar 1, 2025
Leif Holm, PharmD	North Pole	Mar 1, 2015	Mar 1, 2023
Ramsey Bell, RPh	Eagle River	Mar 1, 2022	Mar 1, 2026
Lana Bell, RPh Secretary (previous)	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2022
Tammy Lindemuth Public Member (vacant)	Anchorage	Jan 24, 2018	May 23, 2022
Vacant Public Member			

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Identification of Staff

Laura Carrillo, MPH - Executive Administrator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Bradley Johnson - Occupational Licensing Examiner (since March 2022)

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P.O. Box 110806
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Michael Bowles - Investigator II

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Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3567
(907) 269-8124

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Narrative Statement

The Board of Pharmacy "the board" optimistically submits this narrative statement highlighting its endeavors to promote the welfare and safety of the public through the effective regulation of the pharmacy profession and pharmaceutical supply chain in Alaska. As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued affecting the operations, priorities, and goals of agencies providing critical care services to the public across the nation and the state, the Board of Pharmacy remained zealous in its efforts to safeguard the integrity of its profession while keeping patient safety at the forefront of its pursuits. In FY22, the Board of Pharmacy: published guidance to its licensees on scope of practice expansion authority to provide services related to the testing and treatment of COVID-19; expanded patient access to medications by extending supply-day thresholds for initial and refill prescriptions; and relaxed license qualification requirements using a barrier-reduction regulatory framework to scale-up pharmacy services and support the growth of the Alaskan economy.

FY21-22 marked the beginning of the board's first sunset audit since 2017, which both acknowledged the proliferation of regulatory projects drafted and implemented by the board and provided areas where improved regulatory oversight can be concentrated to further advance its profession and improve patient care. House Bill 306, sponsored by Representative Andi Story, which passed the legislature at the final hour of the FY22 session, extends the Board of Pharmacy through June 30, 2028. While not the full eight (8)-year period that would have extend the board through 2030, the six (6)-year extension is necessitated by the need to reassess the administration and oversight of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the state's controlled substance prescription database and interactive technological tool to assist providers in combating the opioid epidemic. As the PDMP affects a total of six (6) professions regulated by the State Medical Board, Board of Nursing, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Board of Veterinary Examiners, and Board of Dental Examiners, and the Board of Pharmacy, the legislature expects to see continued collaboration among these boards and their constituents.

The sunset audit also illuminated inherent statutory limitations that impose challenges on the board's ability to satisfy reporting requirements to the legislature and its ability to comply with federal grant deliverables. Driven by collaborative ownership of the program, the board chair of each PDMP-affected profession continued to convene its PDMP Chairs Group on a bi-weekly basis in FY21, which began in FY20 as a unified approach to discuss and identify barriers and challenges of the system and to strategize best approaches to, practices for, and priorities for PDMP data usage and dissemination. At the request of the legislature, DCCED - CBPL is procuring a consultant in FY23 to analyze the structure of the PDMP, assess effectiveness of program administration and regulation, and to provide recommendations on how the system can more aptly align with its legislative intent to support judicious prescribing and reduce diversion and abuse of federally-scheduled controlled substances.

Other relevant legislation that passed in FY22 include House Bill 145, an effort lead by the Alaska Pharmacist Association (AKPhA) with support from and collaboration with the board. HB 145 will update language to recognize pharmacists' existing ability to prescribe certain medications, such as vaccines and opioid overdose drugs--a bill that welcomes Alaska to a group of only five (5) states that recognize pharmacists' ability to independently prescribe. This law also acknowledges pharmacists as providers who are trained, qualified, and competent to render certain independent general health and wellness, disease prevention, and medication therapy services without entering into a cooperative practice agreement with a prescriber, and without facing insurance discrimination under Title 21. HB 145 further supports the effective regulation and expansion of pharmacy services by permitting pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations under pharmacist supervision. Additionally, the board supported the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA) and the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiner's PDMP exemption bills, HB 91 and its companion bill, SB 132; however, these bills did not pass in FY22.

In tangential efforts, the Controlled Substances Advisory Subcommittee (CSAC) continues to be led by the Board of Pharmacy's chair or chair's delegate. In FY22, the CSAC continued discussing recently emerging substances of abuse, including kratom and gabapentin. This year, the CSAC decided to put forward a recommendation that Governor Dunleavy schedule kratom as a state-controlled substance to enable prosecution authority and to reduce the diversion and misuse of this substance.

On the regulatory front, the board held timely quarterly and special teleconference meetings to push forward a compilation of regulatory proposals, a bulk of which were crafted in FY2020 but forced into abeyance due to the pandemic, including language related to the license renewal of non-resident wholesale drug distributors, outsourcing facilities, and third-party logistics providers. These license categories were brought under the purview of the board to regulate in FY19, though proposed renewal language will likely be codified in FY23.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

Additionally, the board implemented regulations in FY22 related to:

- Clarifying requirements for registration with and reporting to the PDMP, including delegate access.
- Establishing a time frame for which pharmacists and pharmacies are to report to the board its status of dispensing/distributing federally-scheduled II – IV controlled substances within 10 days.
- Clarifying duties for pharmacy technicians with national certification.
- Support and facilitate expedited licensure for active duty military members and spouses of military members pursuing licensure as a technician, intern, or pharmacist.
- Broaden qualifications for emergency permit issuance to quickly deploy adequate personnel for pharmacies and patients in need.

In FY23, the board also intends to implement regulations to:

- Reduce barriers to initial licensure for individuals, including eliminating transcript and notary requirements for individuals and expanding acceptable formats of license verifications.
- Reduce barriers to initial licensure for pharmacies and facilities, including eliminating inspection-report, fingerprint/background report requirements, and certified true copy requirements.
- Remove onerous requirements to licensure renewal, including allowing attestations in lieu of original documents and removing requirements to provide certified true copies.
- Create a comprehensive joint application for providers to submit a collaborative practice agreement application to the State Medical Board and Board of Pharmacy for approval.
- Draft regulations to support and correspond to statute changes as a result of HB145.
- Develop a licensure process for entities involved in the manufacture of prescription drugs.
- Implement regulations improving and expediting the license process for active duty military members and/or their spouse.
- Amend regulations to improve access to telepharmacy services.

The board is also excited to highlight developments and engagements of both new and existing partnerships with agencies sharing common goals to promote parity in health care, support accessibility of treatment to under-served and geographically-challenged areas and populations, and identify and address challenges and opportunities to support valued personnel within a demanding pharmaceutical infrastructure. FY22 efforts include:

- Collaborating with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to delegate eligibility approval for MPJE and NAPLEX exams
- Participating in question development and reviews to ensure the validity and integrity of examinations required for licensure
- Coordinating a multi-agency rapid response network to address patients experiencing barriers to care due to sudden service closures
- Engaging in conversations with telehealth stakeholders to improve access to telepharmacy and stimulate the growth of these services within Alaska

While the board and its collaborators have made great strides in FY22, there is much more to be accomplished in the next fiscal year. The board is keyed in to anticipates changes with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) effective in FY23 and stands ready to promulgate regulations needed to initiate an effective regulatory response for entities involved in the distribution of prescription drugs. In entering FY23, the board will continue its efforts to ensure a healthy Alaska through continued development of strategic plans, removal of barriers to and streamlining the process for licensure and renewal, exercise collaborative oversight of the PDMP, and nurture continued relationships with departments and organizations whose support is invaluable to the strengthening and advancement of its profession.

With gratitude,

Laura Carrillo, MPH
Executive Administrator

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board's fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as "other" so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 22 - 23, 2022	Anchorage	2	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 1,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: M&IE			\$ 350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,650.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
November 17 - 18, 2022	Anchorage	2	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 1,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: M&IE			\$ 350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,650.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February TBD, 2023	Anchorage	2	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 1,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: M&IE			\$ 350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,650.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board's fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as "other" so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
May TBD, 2023	Anchorage	2	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 1,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: M&IE			\$ 350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,650.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other:

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
August 28-30, 2022	Oklahoma City, OK	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

This is an NABP District 6 – 8 meeting (Alaska is in district 7). This is a unique opportunity to round-table with district members on matters affecting today’s pharmacy practice and an opportunity to engage in proactive discussions for tomorrow’s pharmacists. Attendees will propose and resolve resolutions in an ongoing effort to support the practice of pharmacy.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$500.00			\$500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:				\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$1,080.00			\$1,080.00
Describe “Other” (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$ 4,180.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,180.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
May 11-13, 2023	Nashville, TN	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

119th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) – State boards, regulators, and stakeholders gain a deeper understanding of how NABP and the pharmacy regulatory boards work together to protect public health. Attendees have the opportunity to network and participate in business sessions to keep abreast of the salient issues affecting pharmacy practice and regulation.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$500.00			\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$400.00			\$400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$1,080.00	\$1,500.00		\$2,580.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE, 3rd party conference scholarship opportunity				
Net Total:	\$ 4,580.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,080.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April 10-13, 2023	Atlanta, GA	1	2

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

National Rx Abuse and Heroin Summit – This conference supports the state’s opioid response and the board’s efforts to effectively administer the state’s PDMP. Federal grant funds will be used to send 2 staff members to this conference to attend the PDMP track. License fees will be used to send 1 board member to attend the regulatory, policy, clinical, and/or law enforcement tracks to advance the board's efforts to protect public safety and to support the chair in its Controlled Substances Advisory Committee (CSAC) roll. The below cost reflects travel for 1 board member.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$1,125.00			\$1,125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$170.00			\$170.00
Describe “Other” (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$ 4,395.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,395.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

#4 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Sep 7, 2022	Online	1	

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

MPJE State-Specific Review – this is an opportunity for member boards to participate in review of current exam items to ensure the most valid and relevant questions are reflected in the Multi-State Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE), which is administered by the NABP. This exam is integral to assessing competency for licensure as a pharmacist. Participation in this workshop also allows for selection of new items for pre-testing, which is integral to the validity of MPJEs.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

#5 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD 2023	TBD	1	0

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Compounding Pharmacy Compliance - The board, through their compounding subcommittee, has been working on advancing their compounding regulations over the last few years. This conference is an opportunity to network with experts in the compounding industry, analyze evolving regulations, strengthen compounding systems and processes, and gain insight into techniques to ensure accuracy and sterility. The overarching goal is patient safety.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$800.00			\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$600.00			\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$50.00			\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$450.00			\$450.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$540.00			\$540.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,440.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable
 Resources
 Examinations
 Membership
 Training
 Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable
 Cost Per Event:
Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Summary of FY 2023 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$14,600.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$16,555.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$0.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	\$ 1,500.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$29,655.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2023

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

With the passage of HB 145 in FY2022 that overlap with changes the Board of Pharmacy previously identified in its FY2021 legislative recommendations, a number of intended statutory changes will be resolved. Common interest areas covered in HB 145 and to be effective 90 days subsequent to Governor Dunleavy's signature, include:

- Removal of “dosage form” from the definition of “equivalent drug product” in AS 08.80.480.
- Clarification of pharmacists’ ability to independently prescribe and administer vaccines and emergency medications under AS 08.80.168
- Expansion of pharmacist's ability to independent treat and monitor other conditions as needed
- Allowing pharmacist interns and pharmacy technicians, as supervised by a pharmacist, to prescribe vaccines and emergency medications under AS 08.80.168
- Recognition of pharmacists as providers under AS 21.36.090(d) to eliminate insurance reimbursement discrimination for services provided.

A summary of the Board of Pharmacy’s legislative recommendations it intends to pursue in FY2023 include:

Statutory area	Summary of Change	Citation
Moral character	Remove moral character requirement from applications for pharmacists via examination and reciprocity	AS 08.80.110(2), AS 08.80.145(3)
Registration of pharmacies	Repeal registration and introduce a licensure category	AS 08.80.158
Requirements for non-resident pharmacies	Include devices, require licensure	AS 08.80.159
Licenses not affected	Drug dispensing machines	AS 08.80.400
Prohibited terms	Add “apothecary”	AS 08.80.420
Powers and duties of the board	Regulate the practice of white and brown bagging; regulate kiosks as a separate license type	AS 08.80.030
Creation and membership of board; officers	Add a technician seat; remove one public member seat	AS 08.80.010
National criminal history record check	Require FBI fingerprints for pharmacist applicants	AS 12.62.400

Recommended amendments are included on the following page.

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Legislative Recommendations (continued)

The Board of Pharmacy recommends REPEALING the following:

- AS 08.80.030(b)(10) - (Powers and Duties of the Board): "issue licenses to persons engaged in the manufacture and distribute of drugs and devices;"
- AS 08.80.110(2) - (Qualifications for Licensure by Examination): "furnish the board with at least two affidavits from reputable citizens that the applicant has known for at least one year attesting to the applicant's good moral character;"
- AS 08.80.145(3) - (Reciprocity; License Transfer): "is of good moral character"
- AS 08.80.145(5) - (Reciprocity; License Transfer): "or has met the internship requirements of this state"
- AS 08.80.160(10) - (Fees): "Registration or"

The Board of Pharmacy recommends AMENDING the following:

- AS 08.80.0310(a) - (Creation and Membership of Board; Officers): "There is created the Board of Pharmacy, composed of seven (or eight) members, five of whom shall be pharmacists licensed in the state who have been actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy in the state for a period of three years immediately preceding their appointment. One shall be a pharmacy technician licensed in the state for at least two years. One shall be a person with no direct final interest in the healthcare industry."
- AS 08.80.030(b)(14) - (Powers and Duties of the Board): "require that a licensed pharmacist dispensing federally-scheduled controlled substances in the state register with the controlled substance prescription database under AS 17.30200(o)"
- AS 08.80.030(b)(16) - (Powers and Duties of the Board): "license wholesale drug distributors, third-party logistics providers, outsourcing facilities, and manufacturers under AS 08.80.159, and pharmacies under AS 08.80.157 that are physically located outside the state"
- AS 08.80.159(a) - (Licensing and Inspection of Facilities Outside of the State): "Before shipping, mailing, mailing, distributing, or delivering prescription drugs to a licensee in the state or advertising in the state, a wholesale drug distributor, manufacturer, third-party logistics provider, or an outsourcing facility that is located outside of the state shall"
- AS 08.80.420(a) - (Certain Advertising Prohibited): "A person may not use or exhibit the title "pharmacist," "assistant pharmacist," or "druggist," or the descriptive term "pharmacy," "drug store," "drug sundries," "apothecary," or other similar title or term containing the word "drug," in any business premises, or in an advertisement through the media of press, or publication, or by radio or television, unless the business has a licensed pharmacist in regular and continuous employment."

The Board of Pharmacy recommends ADDING the following:

- AS 08.80.030(b)(17) - (Powers and Duties of the Board): "license and establish standards for automated prescription drug machines installed outside the premise of institutional facilities"
- AS 08.80.030(b)(18) - (Powers and Duties of the Board): "establish standards for the practice of white and brown bagging"
- AS 08.80.030(b)(19) - (Powers and Duties of the Board): "license Internet pharmacies providing services to residents in the State"

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2023

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

The Board of Pharmacy recommends AMENDMENTS to:

- 12 AAC 52.130 - (Registration of Pharmacies Located Outside of the State) to update the language from "registration" to "license"
- 12 AAC 52.865 - (Reporting and Reviewing PDMP Information) to incorporate language on ASAP (American Society for Automation in Pharmacy) reporting fields for veterinary prescriptions.
- 12 AAC 52.920 - (Disciplinary Guidelines) to clarify applicability to (C) and (D) is only to the extent the individual is licensed under this chapter (AS 08).

The Board of Pharmacy recommends NEW SECTIONS for:

- Automated dispensing machines
- Pharmacy kiosks (lockers)
- Inventory losses by wholesale drug distributors
- Manufacturer applications
- Internet pharmacies
- Inventory losses by wholesale drug distributors

The Board of Pharmacy acknowledges it must CREATE/UPDATE regulations by July 1, 2023 corresponding with HB 145:

- 12 AAC 52.992 - Re-title and replace term, "independent administration of" with "prescribe" wherever applicable and incorporate pharmacy technician requirements/standards
- 12 AAC 52.994 - Re-title and replace term, "independent administration of" with "prescribe" wherever applicable
- 12 AAC 52.240 - Update collaborative practice section to incorporate language for general health and wellness, disease prevention, and self-limiting conditions
- 12 AAC 52.460 - Remove "dosage form" ate collaborative practice section to incorporate language for general health and wellness, disease prevention, and self-limiting conditions
- 12 AAC 52.NEW - establish standards for monitoring of drug therapy


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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:





In its FY2022 strategic plan, the Board of Pharmacy identified four (4) overarching goals inspired by (4) guiding principles in the focus areas of communication, administration, licensure, and regulation/enforcement. Each goal includes identification of strategies (objectives) to support and advance the board's guiding principle areas. This section highlights the board's progress with its 16 identified strategies.



ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY

2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy endeavors to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of the practice of pharmacy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	GOALS	STRATEGIES
 COMMUNICATION	1. Engage in effective communication and promote transparency of public information.	1.1 Improve customer service by providing timely and informative updates to applicants and licensees. 1.2 Encourage appropriate disclosure of information related to licensing and investigative processes. 1.3 Maximize communication channels through the Board of Pharmacy website and List Service. 1.4 Increase collaboration with health care boards and stakeholders to address issues affecting scope of practice and patient care.
 ADMINISTRATION	2. Adhere to and strive for improved organizational efficiencies without compromising quality of record keeping.	2.1 Avoid delays in application processing by maintaining adequate staffing and exploring flexible retention strategies. 2.2 Maintain a proactive approach to licensing by consulting historical knowledge, researching national trends, and encouraging innovation in the planning process. 2.3 Automate licensure through online applications. 2.4 Exercise fiscal discipline through effective budget management.
 LICENSURE	3. Ensure competency and qualifications prior to licensure and renewal.	3.1 Adhere to established licensing standards by reviewing education, experience, and examination requirements. 3.2 Periodically review applications and forms for alignment with existing requirements.
 REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT	4. Grow the economy while promoting community health and safety.	4.1 Routinely review effectiveness of regulations that reduce barriers to licensure without compromising patient health and safety. 4.2 Combat the opioid crisis by effective administration of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), including collaboration with providers and key stakeholders. 4.3 Reduce adverse health outcomes during emergencies through prompt regulatory responses and board guidance. 4.4 Establish disciplinary guidelines and conduct random inspections to ensure safety protocols and competencies are met. 4.5 Establish a simple regulatory approach to expand licensure to active duty military personnel and spouse of military personnel. 4.6 Advocate for legislation as the pharmacy profession evolves and new opportunities for improved patient safety arise.

For more information, please visit the following resources:

Board of Pharmacy Homepage: pharmacy.alaska.gov
 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP): pdmp.alaska.gov

Email: pharmacy@alaska.gov
 Phone: 907-465-1073

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

The following table outlines the board's progress for strategies (objectives) 1.1 through 2.4.

GOAL/STRATEGY	MET BY
1.1: Improve customer service by providing timely updates to applicants and licensees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently provided authorization codes for applicants to check their application/record status in real-time using MY LICENSE • Provided courtesy emails with visual aids on how to identify and act on authorization codes • Utilized a spreadsheet to track follow-up with in-process applicants • Provide MY LICENSE status updates and email status updates
1.2: Encourage appropriate disclosure of information related to licensing and investigative processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide form #08-4752 (ProFit template) to applicants • Provide detailed instructions via MY LICENSE and via email
1.3: Maximize communication channels through the Board of Pharmacy website and List Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board fulfilled this strategy by sending multiple notices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed PDMP regulations (08/31/2021) ○ PDMP fee reductions (09/17/2021) ○ CBPL COVID Joint Statement (11/12/2021) ○ November board meeting (11/17/2021) ○ Continuing Education Disciplinary Matrix (11/23/2021) ○ COVID-19 therapeutics (11/23/2021) ○ Proposed license fee reductions (01/31/2022) ○ Proposed regulations related to emergency permits, military licensing, and renewal applications (02/02/2022) ○ February board meeting (02/14/2022) ○ Board Disciplinary Matrix (02/24/2022) ○ Alaska Well-Being Index participation link (02/28/2022) ○ FDA discretion in clozapine REMS program (03/03/2022) ○ Phasing out of hard copy license certificates (03/17/2022) ○ Fee reductions effective date (05/05/2022) ○ 2022 – 2024 renewal extension (05/05/2022) • Updated FAQs site by removing obsolete material
1.4: Increase collaboration with health care boards and stakeholders to address issues affecting scope of practice and patient care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to chair the Controlled Substance Advisory Subcommittee (CSAC) • Continued to participate in bi-weekly PDMP chairs meeting • Continued to participate in bi-weekly healthcare board chairs meeting • Issued a joint statement with the Board of Nursing and Board of Dental Examiners
2.1: Avoid delays in application processing by maintaining adequate staffing and exploring flexible retention strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing challenge; division continues to experience extensive vacancies • Telework option provided to support staff flexibility and retention
2.2: Maintain a proactive approach to licensing by consulting historical knowledge, researching national trends, and encouraging innovation in the planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of desk manual prepared by board's executive administrator • Use of policies and procedures provided by division leadership • Referring to examples of previous work product to ensure consistency
2.3: Automate licensure through online applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not met; online application priorities suspended to accommodate and prioritize core licensing functions using existing methods to apply
2.4: Exercise fiscal discipline through effective budget management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board participated in the division's fee analysis and made fee reductions effective towards the end of FY22.

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
FY 2022 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

The following table outlines the board's progress for strategies (objectives) 3.1 through 4.6.

GOAL/STRATEGY	MET BY
3.1: Adhere to established licensing standards by reviewing education, experience, and examination requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued use of application checklists
3.2: Periodically review applications and forms for alignment with existing requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing; the board's executive administrator is proactive with form updates and anticipates form updates necessitated by regulation changes
4.1: Routinely review effectiveness of regulations that reduce barriers to licensure without compromising patient health and safety.	<p>The following areas have been approved by the board, released to the public for comments, or are pending adoption in FY2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board is successful in continuing to work on and support the division's <i>Right Touch Regulations</i> initiative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing barriers to licensure by eliminating onerous requirements, including authorization for release of records, affidavits of moral character for interns, inspection requirements, background reports and resumes for facilities Eliminating requirements made redundant by similar industry or employer requirements, including academic transcripts Streamlining application processing by delegating approval to the board's executive administrator The board continued to work on broadening circumstances for which an applicant may qualify for an emergency permit
4.2: Combat the opioid crisis by effective administration of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), including collaboration with providers and key stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued facilitation of bi-weekly board chairs meeting Active participation in discussions during FY22 legislative session Provided continued education and outreach to providers Updated website content and continued to make resources and reports available to users and the public Launched a PDMP communications module to facilitate secure provider-to-provider collaboration
4.3: Reduce adverse health outcomes during emergencies through prompt regulatory responses and board guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board did not promulgate emergency regulations in FY22; however, it did collaborate with the Department of Law to issue guidance on providing therapeutics for COVID-19 The board collaborated with the Board of Nursing and Board of Dental Examiners to issue a joint statement
4.4: Establish disciplinary guidelines and conduct random inspections to ensure safety protocols and competencies are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved continuing education disciplinary matrix in early-FY22 Board approved comprehensive disciplinary matrix in mid-FY22
4.5: Establish a simple regulatory approach to expand licensure to active duty military personnel and spouse of military personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board continued to work on developing and improving the license process for activity duty military members and/or their spouse; board approved language and released amendment for public comment in FY22
4.6: Advocate for legislation as the pharmacy profession evolves and new opportunities for improved patient safety arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board supported HB 145 (expand pharmacist authority) The board supported HB 91/SB132 (PDMP vet exemption)

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:





The Board of Pharmacy's 2023 Strategic Plan is below:



ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY

2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy endeavors to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of the practice of pharmacy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	GOALS	STRATEGIES
 COMMUNICATION	1. Engage in effective communication and promote transparency of public information.	1.1 Improve customer service by providing timely and informative updates to applicants and licensees. 1.2 Maximize communication channels through the Board of Pharmacy website and List Service. 1.3 Maintain accuracy of website content and ensure accessibility of up-to-date resources
 ADMINISTRATION	2. Adhere to and strive for improved organizational efficiencies without compromising quality of record keeping.	2.1 Avoid delays in application processing by maintaining adequate staffing and exploring flexible retention strategies. 2.2 Maintain a proactive approach to licensing by consulting historical knowledge, researching national trends, and encouraging innovation in the planning process. 2.3 Automate licensure through online applications. 2.4 Exercise fiscal discipline through effective budget management. 2.5 Embrace innovation by exploring integration and/or delegation opportunities to support core administration functions.
 LICENSURE	3. Ensure competency and qualifications prior to licensure and renewal.	3.1 Adhere to established licensing standards by reviewing education, experience, and examination requirements. 3.2 Take a proactive approach to application and form revision subsequent to regulation changes. 3.3 Review professional fitness questions for applicability and update applications accordingly
 REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT	4. Grow the economy while promoting community health and safety.	3.4 Develop a license application for manufacturers. 4.1 Routinely review effectiveness of regulations that reduce barriers to licensure without compromising patient health and safety. 4.2 Combat the opioid crisis by effective administration of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), including collaboration with providers and key stakeholders. 4.3 Establish disciplinary guidelines to ensure established safety protocols and competencies are met. 4.4 Advocate for legislation as the pharmacy profession evolves and new opportunities for improved patient safety arise. 4.5 Anticipate changes to the Drug Supply Chain Security Act and respond proactively.

For more information, please visit the following resources:

Board of Pharmacy Homepage: pharmacy.alaska.gov
 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP): pdmp.alaska.gov

Email: pharmacy@alaska.gov
 Phone: 907-465-1073

Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

The Board of Pharmacy's SWOT analysis is below:

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technologically adaptive• Use of diverse communication channels• Established licensing policies and procedures• Emergency preparedness regulations• Task list accountability and follow-up• Rapport with stakeholders (AKPhA, DHSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board member participation• Staff turnover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expedited online licensing through myAlaska• Expanded public comment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff availability• Shifting priorities and lack of resources

Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 07/15/2021

Board Sunset Date: 06/30/2028

Audit Recommendation:

The board chair and DCBPL's director should improve procedures and training to ensure applicants meet requirements prior to licensure.

Action Taken:

Ensure use of existing checklists and proper use of the licensing system.

Next Steps:

Ongoing staff training.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: Ongoing

Audit Recommendation:

The board should adopt regulations for renewing outsourcing facilities and third-party logistics provider licenses.

Action Taken:

The board began drafting regulations for renewal of out-of-state facilities in 2020, adopting language during its November 2021 meeting. Amendments were released for public comment in February 2022.

Next Steps:

The board will be adopting renewal regulations for out-of-state facilities during its June 16, 2022 board meeting.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed:

Audit Recommendation:

Applicable occupational boards and DCBPL's director should continue to coordinate efforts to improve the monitoring and enforcement of CSPD requirements.

Action Taken:

DCBPL's director is working on procuring a consultant to assess administration of the database. The board of pharmacy, its staff, and the PDMP manager continue to support the facilitation of PDMP meetings.

Next Steps:

Continued progress on actions already taken.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed:

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Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

Audit Recommendation:

DCCED commissioner should allocate sufficient resources to ensure licensees holding a DEA registration number are consistently recorded in DCBPL's licensing database.

Action Taken:

Training provided to staff on how to identify and enter DEA registration #s; development of checklists and instructional materials.

Next Steps:

Continued progress on actions already taken.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: Ongoing

Audit Recommendation:

DCCED's commissioner should allocate sufficient resources to ensure the CSPD requirements are enforced.

Action Taken:

Continued resources to support affected boards; training materials provided and disseminated.

Next Steps:

Ongoing.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: