



Notice of Proposed Changes to Occupational Licensing Fees for Professions Regulated by the Board of Marine Pilots in the Regulations of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

August 2022

1. Why are new fees being proposed?

By law, fees must be analyzed annually and set to approximately recover the cost of program operations. Alaska's professional licensing statutes (AS 08.01.065) require the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) to "annually review each fee level to determine whether the regulatory costs of each occupation are approximately equal to fee collections related to that occupation." Alaska's licensing fee statutes go on to say, "If the review indicates that an occupation's fee collections and regulatory costs are not approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee adjustments and adopt regulations ... to implement the adjustments."

The division has conducted a thorough fee analysis and proposes a decrease in licensing fee amounts for the marine pilot licenses to comply with AS 08.01.065. The analysis reflected the need to decrease the fees to prevent the accumulation of large surplus. The proposed fee amounts are enclosed and can also be found on the program's web page at <http://professionallicense.alaska.gov/marinepilot>

2. What are the proposed fees?

The fees proposed will be a decrease in the license and renewal fees for marine pilots and deputy marine pilots.

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted.

12 AAC 02.240. Board of Marine Pilots. The following fees are established for all license and registration categories of marine pilots and vessel agents:

- (1) nonrefundable application fee for
 - (A) initial deputy marine pilot license, including the application fee for the regional comprehensive local knowledge examination, \$300;
 - (B) core examination, extension of route examination, marine pilot

- license, vessel agent registration, VLCC endorsement, or tonnage upgrade, \$100;
- (2) marine pilot license fee for all or part of the initial biennial license period, **\$700** [\$1,500], which will be waived by the department if the applicant is upgrading from a deputy marine pilot license and has paid the deputy marine pilot license fee for the same biennial license period;
- (3) biennial marine pilot license renewal fee, **\$700** [\$1,500];
- (4) vessel agent registration fee for all or part of the initial biennial registration period, \$500;
- (5) biennial vessel agent renewal fee, \$500;
- (6) core examination fee, \$500;
- (7) deputy marine pilot license fee for all or part of the initial biennial license period, **\$700** [\$1,500];
- (8) biennial deputy marine pilot license renewal fee, **\$700** [\$1,500];
- (9) regional comprehensive local knowledge examination fee, \$500;
- (10) extension of route examination fee, \$200.

3. How are the estimated costs determined?

AS 08.01.065 requires *all costs* of regulating the profession to be borne by its licensees. The proposed fees are based on known and anticipated costs.

4. What do licensing fees pay for?

The agency must create, publish, and manage licensing application forms and fees, which entail adherence to the state's recordkeeping, security, payment, and refund policies and procedures.

- Requirement of licensees to meet professional fitness standards, which are evaluated by the license examiner and referred to the agency's investigative unit if necessary for further review.
- Enforcement of disciplinary sanctions available to the agency if a licensee violates the state licensing statutes or regulations or an individual practices the profession without a license. Because state law requires all costs of a licensing program to be borne by the licensees of that program (AS 08.01.065), any investigative, attorney, or appeal expenses of the state will be recovered in the licensing fee.

5. When will the new fees be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Division Director for consideration. The Division Director may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, or choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Department action, the adopted regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

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Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.