



# Alaska State Legislature

## Representative Matt Claman

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### House Bill 99 Sectional Analysis — Version A

#### Section 1

*AS 08.84.010. Creation and membership of the board.*

Removes the seat for a physician and balances out the board with 3 physical therapists or physical therapy assistants and 3 occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants along with one public member, to make up the 7-member board. It also changes the term “physical therapy assistant” to “physical therapist assistant” in this section and throughout the entire statute. This change is to conform to the industry title used nationally.

#### Section 2

*AS 08.84.030. Qualifications for licensing.*

Allows the board to have broader authority over what entities will have accreditation oversight over physical therapy & occupational therapy education programs. Some of the accrediting entities listed in statute are now either renamed or no longer exist, making that statute obsolete.

Section 2 removes language from the statute relating to additional supervised field work that occupational therapists must complete as these requirements are covered by the accrediting bodies.

#### Section 3

*AS 08.84.032. Foreign-educated applicants.*

Changes the section headline from “trained” to “educated.” New language is added that requires foreign-educated physical therapist or physical therapy assistant students to have attended a “substantially” equivalent educational program that is accredited by a U.S. accreditation entity that has been approved by the board. Outdated and obsolete language is removed that can be found on page 4, lines 3 -9 of this bill.

Added to subsection (3) of this section is language that would require that a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant pass a test demonstrating competency of the English language only if their program was taught in a foreign language. Subsection (4) requires that a foreign-educated applicant is a legal alien or a U.S citizen. Subsection (7) requires them to pay the required fee and meet any other qualifications for licensure set by the board under 08.84.010(b).

All the above changes in Section 3 are replicated for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants on page 4, lines 27-31 and over to page 5, lines 1-22.

#### Section 4

*AS 08.84.060. Licensure by acceptance of credentials.*

Makes conforming terminology changes.

#### Section 5

*AS 08.84.065(c). Temporary changes.*  
Makes conforming terminology changes.

## **Section 6**

*AS 08.84.075(b). Limited permit.*  
Makes conforming terminology changes.

## **Section 7**

*AS 08.84.075(c). Limited permit.*  
Changes language that would now require that a limited permit is valid for 120 consecutive days.

## **Section 8**

*AS 08.84.075(d). Limited permit.*  
Allows only one limited permit per 12-month period.

## **Section 9**

*AS 08.84.090. Licensure.*  
Updates licensure terminology.

## **Section 10**

*AS 08.84.120(a). Refusal, revocation, and suspension of license.*  
Adds disciplinary action as a possibility to actions a board might consider for an infraction of their licensure and updates terminology in item (7) and states in (9) that failure to comply with the law or regulations or order of the board might result in disciplinary action or suspension of a license.

## **Section 11**

*AS 08.04.130(a). False claim of license prohibited.*  
Adds updated credentialing and terminology.

## **Section 12**

*AS 08.84.130(b). False claim of license prohibited.*  
Updates terminology.

## **Section 13**

*AS 08.84.190. Definitions.*  
Adds a new paragraph defining the updated term “physical therapist assistant.”

## **Section 14**

*AS 11.41.470(1). Definitions.*  
Updates definitions in criminal law/sexual assault statute.

## **Section 15**

*AS 47.17.290(14). Definitions.*  
Updates terminology under definitions in child protection statute.

## **Section 16**

*AS 08.84.190(7). Definitions.*

Repeals subsection (7), which is the definition using outdated term of physical therapy assistant; according to Leg. Legal, when the actual “term” used for the definition is being changed, the entire citing must be repealed. The new definition is set out on page 8, Section 13, lines 11-14.

## **Section 17**

### *Applicability*

Sets out the applicability clauses for licensure for sections 2 and 3 of this Act and for sections 7 and 8.

## **Section 18**

### *Uncodified law*

Transition language for the board vacancy and appointments for the PT/OT board, and states that the changes do not apply to current licensees until it is time for their licensure renewal and then all changes to the law will apply.