

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Bettye Davis

SB 12, 26-LS0089 – “An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Nursing; and providing for an effective date.”

SPONSOR STATEMENT

This bill extends the termination date of the Board of Nursing eight years to June 30, 2019. The board was recommended to be extended by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee in December, 2010.

THE MISSION OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF NURSING IS TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA THROUGH THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICE OF NURSING AS DEFINED BY LAW.

The board adopts regulations to carry out the laws governing the practice of nursing and the work of nurse aides in Alaska. It makes final licensing decisions and takes disciplinary action against people who violate the licensing laws.

The board meets at least four times a year (AS 08.68.080) and consists of seven members appointed by the governor. One member shall be a licensed practical nurse currently involved in institutional nursing service, one member shall be a registered nurse engages in baccalaureate nursing education, three members shall be registered nurses at large, and two members shall be persons who have no direct financial interest in the health care industry (AS 08.68.010).

The five members of the board who are nurses shall be licensed in the state, and shall have been actively engaged in nursing for not less than four years before appointment, three years of which were within the five years immediately preceding appointment (AS 08.68.060). The board shall annually elect a chairman and secretary from among its members.(AS 08.68.070).

Duties and power of the board are found under AS 08.68.100(a): The board shall

(1) adopt regulations necessary to implement this chapter, including regulations pertaining to practice as an advanced nurse practitioner and a nurse anesthetist and regulations necessary to implement AS 08.68.331–08.68.336 relating to certified nurse aides in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of clients served by nurse aides;

(2) approve curricula and adopt standards for basic education programs that prepare persons for licensing under AS 08.68.190;

(3) provide for surveys of the basic nursing education programs in the state at the times it considers necessary;

(4) approve education programs that meet the requirements of this chapter and of the board, and deny, revoke, or suspend approval of education programs for failure to meet the requirements;

(5) examine, license, and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;

(6) prescribe requirements for competence before a former nurse may resume the practice of nursing under this chapter;

(7) define by regulation the qualifications and duties of the executive secretary and delegate authority to the executive secretary that is necessary to conduct board business;

(8) develop reasonable and uniform standards for nursing practice;

(9) publish advisory opinions regarding whether nursing practice procedures or policies comply with acceptable standards of nursing practice as defined under this chapter;

(10) require applicants under this chapter to submit fingerprints and the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check; the department shall submit the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400.

(b) The board may

(1) conduct hearings upon charges of alleged violations of this chapter or regulations adopted under it;

(2) invoke, or request the department to invoke, disciplinary action against a licensee;

(3) prescribe requirements for competence to continue practice.