

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

February 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of CSSB 166() L&C
(Work Order No. 28-LS1010) ~~R~~

TO: Senator Cathy Giessel
Attn: Jane Conway

FROM: Hilary Martin 
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill - the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Requires the practical nursing board member to have practiced nursing for two years prior to appointment; the nursing education board member work at the graduate, baccalaureate, or associate level; and the advanced nurse practitioner and registered nursing applicants to have practiced nursing for four years prior to appointment.

Section 2. Requires the board to adopt regulations relating to retired nurse status, and establish criteria for approval of practical nurse education programs that are not accredited by a national nursing accrediting body. Changes the name of the executive secretary of the board to the executive administrator.

Section 3. Requires the executive administrator of the board to hold, at a minimum, a master's degree in nursing.

Section 4. Changes the name of the executive secretary of the board to the executive administrator.

Section 5. Repeals and reenacts AS 08.68.170, regarding qualifications of registered or practical nurse applicants. Allows a practical nurse applicant to be licensed if the applicant has completed a registered nurse education program but failed the registered nurse licensing examination.

Section 6. Amends the examination requirement to remove the requirement that the examination be written and the requirement that the board conduct examinations annually.

Section 7. Removes language that allowed a person who had completed the Canadian Nurses' Association testing service examination to be licensed in this state.

Section 8. Removes language that allowed a person licensed in a Canadian province or territory to receive a temporary permit. States that a temporary permit may not exceed six months or the date on which the results of the licensing exam taken by the applicant are published, whichever is sooner.

Section 9. Removes the title "licensed vocational nurse" and the corresponding abbreviation from the titles a person licensed in this state may use.

Section 10. Requires the board to adopt regulations regarding continuing competency and background check requirements for reinstatement of a lapsed license.

Section 11. Allows a licensed physician's assistant to supervise a practical nurse.

Section 12. Makes a grammatical change to AS 08.68.270.

Section 13. Adds a new section that requires an employer of a nurse or nurse aide that fires, suspends, or conditions or restricts the practice of a nurse or nurse aide to report that action to the board within seven days. Requires the board to investigate the matter.

Section 14. Removes the requirement that a report to the board regarding incompetent, unprofessional, or unlawful conduct of a nurse or nurse aide be under oath.

Section 15. Repeals and reenacts AS 08.68.279(a), regarding whistleblower protection. Prevents an employer from discharging, threatening, or otherwise discriminating against a nurse under specified circumstances.

Section 16. Allows a person discharged, threatened, or otherwise discriminated against to bring a civil action. Allows the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to impose a civil penalty for violations of (a) of the section.

Section 17. Repeals statutes.