

E-Mail from Sara Chambers – Professional Licensing Operations Manager, DCCED

Follow up to House Finance Committee Questions on HB 84 – Military Training Credit/Temp License

Dear Rep. Saddler:

I was in the House Finance Committee audience today and would like to provide you with a response to some of the concerns regarding HB 84 that were raised by members:

Does the division use Skype or online teleconferencing to accommodate meetings? (Rep. Wilson)

Boards regularly teleconference using an audio bridge. Skype is not allowable software on state computing equipment, so the division is researching additional web conferencing options.

The fiscal note to accommodate board meetings seems excessive given today's technology. (Rep. Thompson)

Boards and commissions regularly hold meetings via teleconference to expedite business and as a cost-saving measure. The fiscal note represents the potential for boards to determine that face-to-face meetings on this potentially complex topic are required to produce the best regulatory outcome. Without informed and engaged deliberation by board members, a greater opportunity for boards to piecemeal determination of "substantial equivalency" exists, which could result in further increased costs and delays in licensure.

Would a delayed effective date result in a zero fiscal note? (Rep. Thompson)

The division has determined that a December 31, 2014, effective date would allow the determination of "substantial equivalency" to be woven into existing board meeting schedules and regulation projects and negate the costs proposed in the fiscal note.

Concern was raised over the phrasing of "held a current license." (Rep. Guttenberg)

The phrase "held a current license" is followed by the requirement to have "practiced in the area of the license" and "maintained the license...in active status before and at the time of application for a license under this subsection...." The division interprets this phrasing to require an active license or certificate in another state at the time the candidate applies for licensure under proposed AS 08.01.064(b)(3)(A). If the candidate is applying under proposed AS 08.01.064(b)(3)(B), the credentials need only meet the standard of equivalency, not a standard for currency.

Please identify the affected boards acronyms. (Rep. Munoz)

The boards that have been identified as affected by this bill are:

- BAH - Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
- CHI - Board of Chiropractic Examiners
- CSW - Board of Social Work Examiners
- DEN - Board of Dental Examiners
- MFT - Board of Marital and Family Therapists
- MED - State Medical Board
- NUR - Board of Nursing
- PHA - Board of Pharmacy
- PHYS - State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
- PYSCH - Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners

VET - Board of Veterinary Examiners

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Programs regulated by the department that are affected by this bill:

Audiologists
Speech-Language Pathologists
Guardians and Conservators
Nursing Home Administrators

Please contact me if you have any additional questions. I will also be present to answer any questions at the next committee meeting for which this bill is scheduled.

Sincerely,

Sara Chambers

Professional Licensing Operations Manager
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

P.O. Box 110806
333 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau, AK 99801-0806
907/465-2144
907/465-2974 FAX
sara.chambers@alaska.gov
www.commerce.alaska.gov/occ