

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate District N

CS for Sponsor Substitute Senate Bill 108(FIN) Medical Care/Licensing/Medical Board

Sponsor Statement (vsn I)

Senate Bill 108 is a streamlining bill which will improve the process for physicians applying for licensure in Alaska. Outdated and overly cumbersome statutes and regulations are interfering with the ability of our medical community to meet the needs of Alaskans because of delays of licensure that negatively impact both doctors and patients. A fully qualified doctor in good standing should not be required to wait months to obtain a license to serve our state residents.

The Alaska State Medical Board has requested this legislation so they may expeditiously and responsibly issue licenses to physician applicants.

SB 108 gives the executive secretary of the State Medical Board expanded authority to review and issue licenses to applicants with uncomplicated applications. With a better system in place, DCCED and the State Medical Board will be able to respond more efficiently at a time when healthcare access is of great concern in our state.

SB 108 will authorize the board's executive secretary to grant licenses to qualified applicants for a permanent medical license, a temporary permit, or a locum tenens permit. It will also authorize the board to designate a board member to grant temporary permits to qualified applicants. The bill outlines exceptions to that authority such as a suspended or revoked license or other special circumstances that would necessitate a full board review.

The bill creates a process for certification of medical assistants, enabling them to perform additional duties in medical settings. The Board will set criteria for educational requirements, certification, renewal and revocations for these medical assistants who apply for certification.

The bill provides for physician delegation of specific, routine activities to unlicensed personnel working in physician offices.

Please join me in support of Senate Bill 108.

Chair Senate Resources Committee
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