

SENATE BILL NO. 44

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR GIESSEL BY REQUEST

Introduced: 2/4/19

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the prescription of drugs by a physician assistant without physical**
2 **examination."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 08.64.101(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The board shall

6 (1) except as provided in regulations adopted by the board under (b) of
7 this section, examine and issue licenses to applicants;

8 (2) develop written guidelines to ensure that licensing requirements are
9 not unreasonably burdensome and the issuance of licenses is not unreasonably
10 withheld or delayed;

11 (3) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions on persons who
12 violate this chapter or the regulations or orders of the board;

13 (4) adopt regulations ensuring that renewal of licenses is contingent on
14 proof of continued competency on the part of the licensee;

(5) under regulations adopted by the board, contract with private professional organizations to establish an impaired medical professionals program to identify, confront, evaluate, and treat persons licensed under this chapter who abuse alcohol, other drugs, or other substances or are mentally ill or cognitively impaired;

(6) adopt regulations that establish guidelines for a physician **or physician assistant** who is rendering a diagnosis, providing treatment, or prescribing, dispensing, or administering a prescription drug to a person without conducting a physical examination under AS 08.64.364; the guidelines must include a nationally recognized model policy for standards of care of a patient who is at a different location than the physician **or physician assistant**;

(7) require that a licensee who has a federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration number register with the controlled substance prescription database under AS 17.30.200(o).

* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.64.364(a) is amended to read:

(a) The board may not impose disciplinary sanctions on a physician **or physician assistant** for rendering a diagnosis, providing treatment, or prescribing, dispensing, or administering a prescription drug that is not a controlled substance to a person without conducting a physical examination if

(1) the physician, **physician assistant**, or another licensed health care provider [OR PHYSICIAN] in the **medical** [PHYSICIAN'S GROUP] practice is available to provide follow-up care; and

(2) the physician **or physician assistant** requests that the person consent to sending a copy of all records of the encounter to the person's primary care provider if the prescribing physician **or physician assistant** is not the person's primary care provider [,] and, if the **person** [PATIENT] consents, the physician **or physician assistant** sends the records to the person's primary care provider.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.64.364(b) is amended to read:

(b) The board may not impose disciplinary sanctions on a physician **or physician assistant** for prescribing, dispensing, or administering a prescription drug that is a controlled substance or botulinum toxin if the requirements under (a) of this section and AS 08.64.363 are met and the physician **or physician assistant** prescribes,

1 dispenses, or administers the controlled substance or botulinum toxin when an
2 appropriate licensed health care provider is present with the person [PATIENT] to
3 assist the physician or physician assistant with examination, diagnosis, and
4 treatment.

5 * **Sec. 4.** AS 08.64.364(c) is amended to read:

6 (c) Notwithstanding (a) and (b) [(c)] of this section,

7 (1) a physician may not [(1)] prescribe, dispense, or administer an
8 abortion-inducing drug under (a) of this section unless the physician complies with
9 AS 18.16.010; and [OR]

10 (2) a physician or physician assistant may not prescribe, dispense,
11 or administer a prescription drug in response to an Internet questionnaire or electronic
12 mail message to a person with whom the physician or physician assistant does not
13 have a prior physician-patient relationship.