



Representative Ivy Spohnholz

House Health & Social Services Committee Co-Chair

*Serving House District 16: College Gate, Russian Jack, Nunaka Valley, & Reflection Lake
Committee Member: Resources, Energy, & Legislative Budget & Audit*

Sectional Analysis:

House Bill 89

Opiod Addiction Risk Disclosure Bill

“An Act relating to the prescription of opioids; relating to the practice of dentistry; relating to the practice of medicine; relating to the practice of podiatry; relating to the practice of osteopathy; relating to the practice of nursing; relating to the practice of optometry; relating to the practice of pharmacy.”

Section 1. Bill Name is Opioid Addiction Risk Disclosure. Legislative Findings hold that The State has a moral, financial, and public health interest in reducing opioid and heroin addiction in Alaska. There has been a copious amount of medically document evidence that shows that opioid prescription drugs are addictive and can create issues for patients

Section 2. Amends AS 08.36.070 Duties of Opioid Prescribing Dentists: Inform patients, in provider’s “own words”, of potential addiction dangers from extended opioid use; and any reasonable treatment alternatives, if they exist, to the recommended opioid prescription; distribute Department of Health and Social Services short handout on some potential dangers.

Regulations/Enforcement of Bill: Board power to consider discipline for dentists who “habitually” violate bill requirements; potential board discipline, but no additional legal civil liability cause of action created by bill, to protect against hostile legal relationship between patient and provider.

Section 3. Amends AS 08.64.101(a) Duties of Opioid Prescribing Medical, Osteopathy and Podiatry Providers: Inform patients, in provider’s “own words”, of potential addiction dangers from extended opioid use; and any reasonable treatment alternatives, if they exist, to the recommended opioid prescription; distribute Department of Health and Social Services short handout on some potential dangers.

Regulations/Enforcement of Bill: Board power to consider discipline for medical, osteopathy and podiatry providers who “habitually” violate bill requirements; potential board discipline, but no additional legal civil liability cause of action created by bill, to protect against hostile legal relationship between patient and provider.

Section 4. Amends AS 08.68.100(a) Duties of Opioid Prescribing Registered Nurses: Inform patients, in provider’s “own words”, of potential addiction dangers from extended opioid use;

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and any reasonable treatment alternatives, if they exist, to the recommended opioid prescription; distribute Department of Health and Social Services short handout on some potential dangers.

Regulations/Enforcement of Bill: Board power to consider discipline for registered nurses who “habitually” violate bill requirements; potential board discipline, but no additional legal civil liability cause of action created by bill, to protect against hostile legal relationship between patient and provider.

Section 5. Amends AS 08.72.050 Duties of Opioid Prescribing Optometrists: Inform patients, in provider’s “own words”, of potential addiction dangers from extended opioid use; and any reasonable treatment alternatives, if they exist, to the recommended opioid prescription; distribute Department of Health and Social Services short handout on some potential dangers.

Regulations/Enforcement of Bill: Board power to consider discipline for registered optometrists who “habitually” violate bill requirements; potential board discipline, but no additional legal civil liability cause of action created by bill, to protect against hostile legal relationship between patient and provider.

Section 6. Amends AS 08.80.030(b) Duties of Opioid Prescribing Pharmacists: Inform patients, in provider’s “own words”, of potential addiction dangers from extended opioid use; and any reasonable treatment alternatives, if they exist, to the recommended opioid prescription; distribute Department of Health and Social Services short handout on some potential dangers.

Regulations/Enforcement of Bill: Board power to consider discipline for registered pharmacists who “habitually” violate bill requirements; potential board discipline, but no additional legal civil liability cause of action created by bill, to protect against hostile legal relationship between patient and provider.

Section 7. Inserts a new paragraph in AS 47.37.040 under subheading (24) that creates a visual aid for providers to hand out to patients when they are being prescribed opioids. This handout will provide easily understandable and concise information on opioids, including the inherent addictive and harmful qualities of opioids. This visual aid also will also provide information on opioid statistics specific to Alaska.

This graphic can be printed off on the Alaska DHSS website, for physicians to use and distribute to clients/patients.