

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
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Explanation of Changes

CS SB 44(FIN) vsn E to HCS CSSB44 (FIN) vsn O

Telehealth: Physician Assistants; Drugs
Senator Giessel By Request

- Page 1, lines 2 – 3: Expands the title of the legislation to include “relating to prescription drugs under the medical assistance program;”
- Page 3, line 14 – Page 5, line 4: Adds a new section 5 that amends AS 47.05.012 to include the Medicaid Preferred Drug List and prior authorization medication list to material incorporated by reference via regulation.

(This means the lists can be adopted after each Pharmacy & Therapeutics and Drug Utilization Review Committee meetings occur each September, November, January and April. Changes will be publicly noticed stating the new list replaces the old list. The new adoption of changes will take about 60 days. This is a common practice for lists, codes, manuals or certain guidelines that are updated periodically from a previous version. Examples include the federal poverty guidelines for the state, the current procedural terminology for physicians published by the American Medical Association, and the consumer price index.)

- Page 4, lines 5 – 13: Adds a new Section 6 that amends AS 47.07.065 to require the Department to capture cost savings and cost containment for prescribed drugs by adopting and updating the preferred drug list and the prior authorization medications list. Provides for a definition of the preferred drug list and lists specific types of cost savings and cost containment measures for the pharmacy program that can be utilized.
- Page 5, Line 20: Applies the immediate effective date to Sections 5– 7.