



Senate Bill 3006
Health Care Reqs; COVID-19; Telehealth
Sectional Analysis: Version B.A

Section 1. States the purpose of this Act is to provide for mitigation measures that will enhance the state's ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 under the uncodified law.

Section 2. Creates new sections under AS 18.09: Article 2A. COVID-19 Immunization Rights.

AS 18.09.270. Proof of Vaccination: Provides that a person who requires an individual to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 shall also accept evidence that the individual has antibodies against COVID-19, as a means to satisfy the vaccination requirement. The evidence shall include but is not limited to a documented antibody test or a documented positive COVID-19 test.

AS 18.09.280. Personal objections to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines: Provides that an individual may object to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine based on religious, medical, or other grounds and that a parent or guardian of a minor child may object to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine based on religious, medical, or other grounds. This section further stipulates that an individual may not be required to provide justification or documentation to support the individual's decision to decline the COVID-19 vaccine.

AS 18.09.290. Access to areas and services: Provides that a business, state agency, or political subdivision of the state may not require an individual to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order for the individual to access an area or service that is open to the public.

AS 18.09.300. Exercise of rights and access to benefits: Provides that a state agency or political subdivision of the state may not adopt or issue a regulation, ordinance, order, or similar policy that requires an individual to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order for the individual to exercise a right or receive a benefit that is available to the public.

AS 18.09.310. Definition. Defines "COVID-19" as the novel coronavirus disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Section 3. Allows the Division of Insurance (DOI) director to order health care insurers to waive utilization review requirements by adding a new subsection (f) to AS 21.06.080: General Powers, Duties; Catastrophes.

Section 4. Suspends the requirements, under AS 08.64.170 (medical) and AS 08.68.160 (nursing), to allow health care providers licensed, permitted, or certified in good standing in another jurisdiction to

provide telehealth and telemedicine services to patients in Alaska without being required to obtain an Alaska license or first conduct an in-person physical exam. This does not allow a health care professional not licensed in Alaska to provide in-person treatment in Alaska or to prescribe a controlled substance.

- Section 5. Provides that a hospital or nursing facility may employ a person without obtaining a background check from the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) if the hospital or nursing facility provides sufficient information to the department attesting to the hiring process for each person employed at the facility and confirms that a background check has been conducted as part of the hiring process. Also provides that the hospital or nursing facility must receive a background check from DHSS for each person hired between the effective date of this Act and July 1, 2022, no later than July 1, 2022.
- Section 6. Provides that a person is not required to obtain a certificate of need under AS 18.07 for an expenditure that is made between the effective date of this Act and June 30, 2022.
- Section 7. Provides that Section 4 and 5 of this Act are repealed July 1, 2022.
- Section 8. Provides for an immediate effective date.