



## **Senate Bill 3006**

### **Health Care Reqs; COVID-19; Telehealth**

#### **Summary of Changes: Version A to Version B.A**

#### **Changes Made in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:**

##### **Section 4: TELEMEDICINE AND TELEHEALTH**

###### **Page 3, line 1 through page 3, line 26**

Subsection (c) was removed from the bill with the adoption of Amendment 1.

This subsection provided the Commissioner of Health and Social Services with the authority to waive state law or regulation that would prevent or impede the provision of health care services under Section 3 of the Act.

##### **Section 5: BACKGROUND CHECKS; APPLICABILITY**

###### **Page 3, line 27 through page 4, line 6**

All material was deleted and replaced with a new section pertaining to the waiver of background checks for employees of hospital and nursing facilities with the adoption of Amendment 2.

The amendment clarified that a hospital or nursing facility may hire an employee without first obtaining a background check from the Department of Health and Social Services if the hospital or 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. Further clarifies that the hospital or nursing facility must obtain a background check for each person hired between the effective date of this Act and July 1, 2022, no later than July 1, 2022.

#### **Changes Made on the Senate Floor:**

##### **Section 2: ARTICLE 2A. COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION RIGHTS**

###### **Page 1, line 12 through page 2, line 23**

AS 18.09.270 – AS 18.09.310 pertaining to COVID-19 immunization rights were added to the bill with the adoption of Amendments 1, 4, and 5.

- 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 6: WAIVER OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS**

### **Page 4, line 7 through page 4, line 11**

A new section was added to the bill temporarily waiving certificate of need requirements with the adoption of Amendment 2.

The amendment 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.