

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HB 347 Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

Sectional Analysis - March 9th, 2026

Section 1. Adds a scope of practice for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants under AS 08.84.095, describing the people who need care as those whose ability to participate in activities of daily living are restricted because of having, or being at risk of having, an injury or impairment that limits the ability to participate in an occupation or other goal-oriented task or activity. The therapist may evaluate, analyze, and diagnose the cause and intervene with therapy to recover from or decrease the cause and help the person recover from or adjust to the limitation, and help restore the ability to engage in an occupation or other activity. An occupational therapist may provide therapy without a referral from another provider of health care services.

Occupational therapy includes treating pain and rehabilitating a person to adjust to physical, neuromusculoskeletal, cognitive, psychosocial, visual, or other sensory-perceptive aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to maintain their ability to engage in an occupation or other activity.

Examples of “activities of daily living” can include sleep, rest, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation. They also include basic essential functions such as a person’s ability to eat, feed themselves, and swallow.

Therapists also design, fabricate, and apply assistive technology or adaptive or orthotic devices and train people to use the devices.

Section 2. Amends the definition of occupational therapy by removing previous descriptors such as “developing ... skills,” and “facilitating ... functioning” in favor of the more definitive descriptive language in Section 1.

Section 3. Amends the definition of occupational therapy assistant from a person who “assists in the practice of occupational therapy” to one who “administers or assists with administering therapy” under the supervision of a licensed therapist.

Section 4. Adds a definition of “tests and measurement” to include imaging, electrodiagnostic, and electrophysiological, and other methods or techniques used to determine how to administer the therapy needed.