

## Alaska State Legislature

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**Senator Bettye Davis**

**SB 166 - "An Act relating to the licensing of medical laboratory science professionals; and providing for an effective date."**

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

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#### **SB 166 establishes a six member Board of Clinical Laboratory Science Professionals.**

The Board includes one public member and one and no more than one from each the five occupational categories which may be licensed by the Board:

- a. Medical laboratory scientist (4-year bachelor of Science degree)
- b. Medical laboratory technician (2-year Associates degree)
- c. Medical laboratory assistant
- d. Phlebotomy technician
- e. Public health scientist

#### **SB 166 requires licensing of medical laboratory science professionals under Alaska Statutes Title 8.**

Today medicine is a team effort which requires the highest quality and coordination in all occupations of provider services. Most healthcare professions are licensed in Alaska to protect the public and define the scope of practice and training required to engage in an occupation. Medical laboratory science professionals and radiologic technologists are not currently licensed by the State, yet they perform the majority of diagnostic testing in Alaska.

Over 70% of all medical decisions are based on diagnostic testing. Inaccurate test results by unqualified medical laboratory professionals can delay appropriate care and lead to inappropriate or harmful diagnoses or treatments that could result in injury or death. The complexity and importance of laboratory science in modern medicine makes it imperative that medical laboratory personnel possess the qualifications necessary to ensure their professional competence. SB 166 will assure proper training, qualifications, and licensing for newly recognized medical laboratory science professionals under Title 8.

#### **Transition/Grandfather Clause**

The bill provides up to one year following the effective date of this Act or the date the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development begins issuing licenses, whichever is later, for the board to approve applications for licensure and continuing competency requirements of laboratory professionals who are currently working but not certified by approved credentialing agencies. After the first year, applicants will not be licensed under this clause.