

Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA): HB 352

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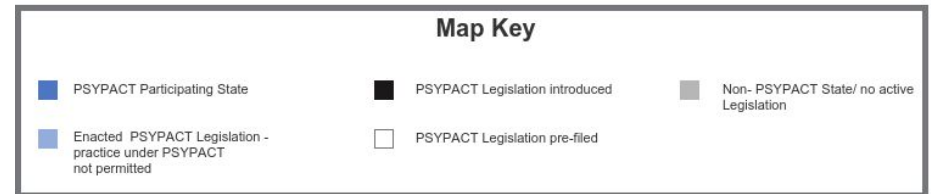
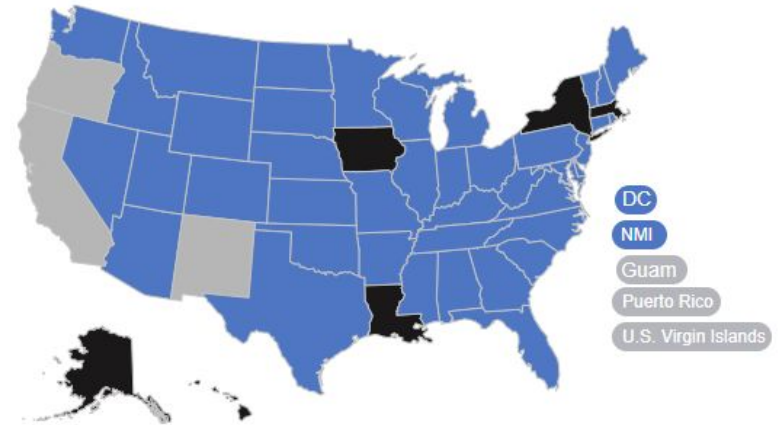
“Advancing psychology as a science, profession, and as a means of promoting human welfare in Alaska.”

About the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA)

- AK-PA is an interdisciplinary organization that represents psychologists and other allied mental health professionals in Alaska.
- We surveyed members about PSYPACT support.
- We shared preliminary survey results with the committee on 3/4/26.

History of PSYPACT

- Work on PSYPACT began in 2014, first state joined in 2016, compact enacted in 2019.
- 41 member states currently.
- Active legislation in 5 states (including Alaska).



Source: psypact.gov

Practicing with PSYPACT (1 of 2)

- Licensed psychologists in member states must obtain an **E.Passport** from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB).
- E.Passport holders may then:
 - Apply for **Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT)**
 - Apply for **Temporary Authorization to Practice (TAP)** in-person

Practicing with PSYPACT (2 of 2)

- Psychologists cannot obtain an E.Passport if they have any history of disciplinary action on any professional licenses.
- Psychologists with an APIT or TAP **must** comply with **all** state laws, rules, and regulations for each PSYPACT state they are practicing into or out of.
- PSYPACT clinicians must declare their Home State:
 - No diverting licensing fees from Alaska to other states.
 - No practicing with the cheapest or “easiest” to obtain professional license.

E.Passport Requirements

- As of July 2025, there are **six pathways** to qualify for an E.Passport.
- The most common pathway to qualify for an E.Passport is earning a degree from an **APA-accredited doctoral program**.
 - The American Psychological Association (APA) is the primary accreditor for doctoral-level degree programs in professional psychology.
 - APA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for pre-accreditation and accreditation of professional psychology degree programs and doctoral internships.
 - 430 accredited doctoral programs across all 50 states.

Alaska and APA-Accreditation

- Alaska has two doctoral degree programs in psychology:
 - University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) **is** APA-accredited.
 - Alaska Pacific University (APU) is **not** APA-accredited.
- We are seeking verification from PSYPACT and ASPPB to determine if the APU program satisfies requirements under another pathway to qualify for an E.Passport.
 - *Need to determine whether the APU program meets the in-person instruction requirements.*

AK-PA Member Survey (1 of 4)

- About half (48%) of our members who hold an active psychology license responded to the survey.
- We asked: **“Do you support Alaska adopting PSYPACT?”**
- Survey options:
 - Strongly support
 - Somewhat support
 - Neutral/unsure
 - Somewhat oppose
 - Strongly oppose

AK-PA Member Survey (2 of 4)

- A majority (56%) **strongly support** PSYPACT
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) **strongly support** or **somewhat support** PSYPACT
- AK-PA members support PSYPACT by a 3-1 ratio
- Half of members opposed to PSYPACT are not eligible for E.Passport under APA-accreditation requirements.

AK-PA Member Survey (3 of 4)

- Top **benefits** of joining PSYPACT reported by members:
 - 50% said: **Continuity of care for relocating patients**
 - 28% said: **Increased access for rural Alaskans**
 - 8% said: **Professional mobility**

AK-PA Member Survey (4 of 4)

- Top **concerns** of joining PSYPACT reported by members:
 - 25% said: **Exclusion of non-APA graduates**
 - 22% said: **Cultural competence concerns**
 - 14% said: **Insurance reimbursement issues**
 - 14% said: **No major concerns**

Next Steps

- AK-PA Board of Directors is meeting this evening (3/11/26) to review survey results and issue an official position.
 - On our agenda: Distinguish the benefits/concerns that relate to **professional practice** vs. the benefits/concerns that relate to the **public welfare**.
 - Advancing the profession and the public welfare are both part of AK-PA's mission.
- We can share our written position with the committee by Friday (3/13/26).

Thank you!