



Senate Bill 89: Sectional Analysis

Section 1. Removes state medical board (SMB) reference to AS 08.64.107 and simply references a licensed physician assistant (PA).

Section 2. Repeals and reenacts 08.64.107 to restructure the physician assistant authorizing statutes.

Subsection (a) states a PA may provide medical service they are qualified and competent to perform.

Subsection (b) establishes that a PA is responsible for the care they provide.

Subsection (c) maintains that PAs not practicing at locations described in subsection (d) will continue to practice within a written collaborative agreement with a physician. The collaborative agreement will describe the collaboration between the PA and the signing physician.

Subsection (d) states that a PA may practice without a collaborative agreement if working with: a facility directed by a physician, osteopath, or podiatrist; a health care facility license by the Department of Health; a tribal organization or federally operated health care facility; a federally qualified health center; or military/veteran's facility. The medical board can authorize a PA at another location following an application for such consideration.

Section 3. Amends 08.64 to add a new section laying out the qualifications for physician assistant qualifications for licensure.

Section 4. Amends 08.64.230 to add an additional section directing the SMB or its executive secretary to grant a license to qualified applicants.

Section 5. Amends the existing statute to include physician assistants in the list of medical practitioners whose licensure we recognize from other states and provinces of Canada.

Section 6. Amends 08.64.250 to include PAs in the existing temporary licensure process and reference the new applicable section 08.64.206.

Section 7. Amends the existing statute to include physician assistants alongside the other medical practitioners in the list of temporary licensure and substitute roles in different medical facilities.

Section 8: Adds a subsection to include PAs in the fee requirement when applying for a license.



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Section 9: Amends the section to include PAs in the existing statute regarding the SMBs parameters for evaluating any extenuating circumstances to waive certain requirements for meeting licensure qualifications.

Section 10. Amends AS 08.64.326 subsection (a) to include PAs in the existing statutes regarding the process for being sanctioned for crime, misrepresentation, and failure to pay fees, to name a few of the examples given in the statute.

Section 11. Amends the existing statute to include PAs in the existing voluntary surrender provisions in AS 08.64.334.

Section 12. Amends the existing statute to include PAs in the process for medical practitioners who treat fellow licensed medical practitioners for alcoholism, drug addiction, and mental/emotional disorders who might constitute a danger to their patients or themselves, to report to the SMB.

Section 13. Grants immunity in civil liability for PAs who submit a report in good faith to the SMB relating to addictive substances abuse.

Section 14. Amends statute so that PAs cannot refuse to submit a report to the SMB or withhold evidence on the grounds that it is under doctor-patient confidentiality.

Section 15. Updates the statute covering all state licensees under this chapter, including PAs, to specify that if they practice without a valid license, they are guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Section 16. Amends the statute to include PAs in the list of medical providers who can support a licensed physician in another state, in the support of the regular medical service of the United States Public Health Service, or volunteering services to the armed services of the US among other unique medical support situations.

Section 17. Amends the statute to allow physician assistants to show their PA credentials to communicate their qualifications. Requires all licensees in this chapter to clearly communicate that a person is not a physician or osteopath if they hold any doctorate degree in a non-medical field.

Section 18. Amends 08.64.380 to include PAs as providers who can accept concurrent referrals for systemic disease treatment.

Section 19: Amends the definition of practitioner to include physician assistant in the statute.

Section 20: Puts in statute the definition of physician assistant.

Section 21: Amends the statute referenced to be in line with the repealed statutes removed by previous sections.



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Section 22: Adds a section under AS 21.07.010 to prevent any requirements within a health care insurance policy from being more restrictive than or inconsistent with the practice, education, or collaboration provisions outlined in AS 08.64.

Section 23: Updates the definition of licensed physician assistants to remove the supervision requirement allowing for PAs who are no longer subject to a collaborating physician agreement to continue their practice.

Section 24: Amends the statute to include physician assistant in the definition of health care provider in statute.