

# Alaska State Senate

Senator Forrest Dunbar



## Session:

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 465-6944

## Interim:

1500 W. Benson Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
(907) 269-0246

## Proudly Serving Senate District J

*Mountain View | Airport Heights | Russian Jack | U-Med | Campbell  
Park*

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES N TO G

*SB 281: HEALTH CARE COMPACTS; RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM*

*“An Act Relating to the Rural Health Transformation Program, Relating to Physician Assistants, relating to Interstate Medical Licensure Compacts”*

### Deleted

**PA Scope of Practice:** Sections 1, 3, 5-7, 9-12, 14-22, 29, 31, 33, 35-37.

### Added

**New Section 2: AS 08.64.190** is amended to expand the scope of background checks. Clarifies that information obtained can only be used for the purposes in determining qualifications and fitness for licensure or compact privilege under this chapter.

**New Section 3: AS 08.64.200** is amended by adding a new subsection (6) which requires submitting applicant fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check.

**New Section 4: AS 08.64.205** includes osteopaths in subsection (6) of AS 08.64.200.

**New Section 5: AS 08.64.209** includes podiatrists in subsection (6) of AS 08.64.200.

**New Section 6: AS 08.64.225** includes foreign medical graduates in subsection (6) of AS 08.64.200.

**New Section 15:** Amends AS.12.62.400 to authorize the Division of Public Safety to conduct national criminal history record checks for:

(26) physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, and physician assistants.

(27) psychologists.

(28) certification or licensure for emergency medical technicians, mobile intensive care paramedic, and advanced emergency medical technician.

**New Section 16: AS 18.08.082** is amended by adding a new subsection (d) to include emergency medical technicians, mobile intensive care paramedic, and advanced emergency medical technician to the list of professions which requires submitting applicant fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check.

*Unreferenced sections have been renumbered accordingly.*

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### **AS 08.64.253 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

Remains the same.

### **AS 08.64.254 – PA Licensure Compact (“PA compact”)**

Remains the same.

### **AS 08.86.225 – Psychologists and Psychological Associates Compact**

Remains the same.

**New Section 17: AS 18.08** is amended by adding new sections to read:

### **AS 18.08.105 – Emergency Medical Services: recognition of EMS personnel licensure interstate compact.**

**Sections 1-13 & 15.** Remains the same.

**Section 14. Date of Implementation of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice and Associated Rules, Withdrawal, and Amendment.** Changes “Association” to “Associated” in title, remainder stays the same.

**New Section 18: AS 22.29** is amended by adding new sections to read:

### **AS 44.29 – Article 5A. Rural Health Transformation Program**

- **Section 44.29.410. Rural Health Transformation Program Advisory Council.**

(1) adds “or tribal health consortium”.

(B) removes the requirement for the member to be a medical facility.

(2) removes the requirement for a member to be a health provider that works with a federally qualified health care organization. Adds that the member may represent a federally qualified health center.

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(3) removes the requirement for a member to be a board member, executive officer, or administrator for a hospital. Adds that a member represents hospitals or professional organization for hospitals.

(4) removes the requirement for a member to work in a school or local government. Adds that the member represents local government.

(5) removes member who works in behavioral health. Adds that a member represents the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

(8) adds a member who is the Department of Health Deputy Commissioner or designee, who is nonvoting and serves as chair.

(f) allows the council to adopt bylaws for operations.

- **Section 44.29.240. Council duties.** Removes the council's duties relating to administering surveys and obtaining feedback from stakeholders about implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program. Adds the council's role as aiding the department in the state's participation of the Rural Health Transformation Program.

- **Section 44.29.430. Department duties; procurement.**

### Subsection (a)

(C & D) changes updates to occur annually instead of quarterly for grants applications, scoring, awardees, uses of grants, and state funded projects from the Rural Health Transformation Program.

(3) removes the permission for the Department of Health to adopt regulations.

### Subsection (b)

(1 & 2) removes the requirement that the Department of Health award grants equally to applicants of each judicial district, equally across organizations based on employee size, and requiring priority to historically underserved populations.

- **Section 44.29.440 Reports.**

**Subsection (a)** removes the requirement that the advisory council prepare a report and deliver it to the senate secretary and chief clerk of the house by the first day of each regular session of the legislature. Adds that the Department of Health shares interim and federal reports annually with the legislature.

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**Subsection (b & c)** removed.

**Section 39 -41:** removed.