

34th Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 405
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457



1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 451-8172

Representative Frank Tomaszewski

House Bill 270: “An Act relating to the prescription of opioid overdose drugs”

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 270 is a targeted, commonsense public health measure designed to reduce preventable opioid overdose deaths in Alaska while preserving appropriate access to pain management. The bill requires licensed health care providers to *offer* a prescription for an opioid overdose drug—such as naloxone—when prescribing opioids under specific, higher-risk circumstances.

HB 270 applies when an opioid prescription exceeds a three-day supply, reaches a dosage of 50 morphine milligram equivalents or more per day, is prescribed concurrently with a benzodiazepine, or when the patient has a history of overdose or substance use disorder. These risk factors are well-recognized indicators of increased overdose potential and are consistent with national clinical guidance.

Importantly, this legislation does not mandate that a patient fill or accept an overdose reversal prescription, nor does it restrict a provider’s clinical judgment in prescribing opioids. Instead, HB 270 ensures that patients are informed of, and have access to, a potentially life-saving medication at moments when risk is elevated.

Opioid overdose continues to be a significant and growing public health concern in Alaska, affecting individuals, families, and communities statewide. Naloxone is safe, effective, and widely recognized as a critical tool in overdose prevention. By integrating overdose education and access into routine prescribing practices, HB 270 strengthens Alaska’s response to the opioid crisis without imposing new barriers to care.

House Bill 270 represents a balanced approach: supporting patient safety, respecting provider discretion, and prioritizing prevention over tragedy.