



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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House Bill 110 – HEALTH CARE LICENSING; COMPACTS; RESPIRATORY CARE; RURAL HEALTH

Summary of Changes – ver. N.A to ver. H

Title: Conforming changes.

Section 1: Amends AS 08.01.010; Adding respiratory care practitioners (under the new AS 08.90) to the list of professional regulation programs administered by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Section 2: Amends AS 08.02.110(a); Adding respiratory care practitioners licensed under AS 08.90 to the existing list of health professionals required to use professional identification on signs, stationery, and advertising.

Section 3: Amends AS 08.02.130(j)(1); Adding respiratory care practitioners licensed under AS 08.90 (and authorized under AS 08.90.060(a)(4)(H)) to the definition of “health care provider” used in the statute governing health care provider advertising.

Section 4. Amends AS 08.11; Adds new section requiring audiologists and speech-language pathologists who apply for a compact privilege under AS 08.11.300 to submit fingerprints and fees for state and national criminal history record checks through the Department of Public Safety. Information obtained may be used only to determine the applicant’s qualifications and fitness for the compact privilege.

Section 5: Amends AS 08.64.101(a); Amends the duties of the State Medical Board to add implementation of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (AS 08.64.253) and the PA Licensure Compact (AS 08.64.254).

Section 6: AS 08.64.190; Adds a new subsection requiring applicants for an expedited license as a physician or osteopath under AS 08.64.253, or a physician assistant license under AS 08.64.107, to submit fingerprints and fees for state and national criminal history record checks through the Department of Public Safety. The information obtained is restricted to determining qualifications and fitness for licensure or compact privilege.

Section 7: Amends AS 08.64; Adds two new sections enacting two interstate compacts. AS 08.64.253 enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which establishes an expedited pathway for physicians to obtain licensure in multiple states through a Medical Board-administered process, including governance through an Interstate Commission, eligibility requirements, criminal background checks, fees, joint investigations, and discipline coordination. AS 08.64.254 enacts the

PA Licensure Compact, which provides a comparable multistate compact privilege for licensed physician assistants, with its own eligibility, examination, background-check, and discipline framework administered by the PA Licensure Compact Commission.

Section 8: Amends AS 08.64.315; Adds fees associated with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and the PA Licensure Compact to the list of fees the department is to set under AS 08.01.065.

Section 9: Amends AS 08.84.030(a); Amends the duties of the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to update its responsibilities consistent changes to occupational therapy scope and definitions.

Section 10: Amends AS 08.84; Adds a new section establishing the scope of practice for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, including evaluation, intervention, and consultation services to promote health and participation in occupations.

Section 11: Amends AS 08.84.190(3); Updating the definition of “occupational therapy” and removes the prior limitation that services be provided “for compensation,” modernizing the definition.

Section 12: Amends AS 08.84.190(4); Updating the definition of “occupational therapy assistant” consistent with the new scope-of-practice section, and removes the “for compensation” limitation.

Section 13; Amends AS 08.84.190; Adds a new defined term, “test and measurement,” supporting the updated occupational therapy scope-of-practice provisions.

Section 14: Amends AS 08.86.070; Amending the duties of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners to add implementation of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (AS 08.86.225) and related responsibilities.

Section 15: Amends AS 08.86.130(a); Amending the qualifications for psychologist licensure to add a new requirement that the applicant submit fingerprints and fees for state and national criminal history record checks through the Department of Public Safety, with the use of the resulting information limited to determining qualifications and fitness for licensure or authority to practice.

Section 16: Amends AS 08.86.140(a); Amends the fee schedule to add a fee for authority to practice under the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (AS 08.86.225).

Section 17: Amends AS 08.86.150; Requiring that applicants submit fingerprints and fees as required under the new subsection added by Section 18.

Section 18: Amends AS 08.86.150; Adds a new subsection setting out the fingerprint submission and criminal history record check process for applicants seeking psychologist licensure by credentials, paralleling the requirements added in Section 15.

Section 19: Amends AS 08.86; Adds a new Article 5A enacting the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). The compact authorizes psychologists licensed in member states to practice telepsychology across state lines and to provide temporary in-person practice for up to 30 days per year, subject to the rules of a Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission. Includes definitions, authority to practice, governance, dispute resolution, rulemaking, oversight, and effective date provisions.

Section 20: Amends AS 08; Adds new chapter AS 08.90 creating a licensing framework for respiratory care practitioners. The chapter requires licensure to practice respiratory care; sets eligibility (including graduation from an accredited respiratory care educational program);

authorizes licensure by credentials and recognition of out-of-state licensure; sets renewal requirements; defines a comprehensive scope of practice and qualified medical direction; provides for disciplinary sanctions; lists exceptions to the licensing requirement; sets criminal penalties; authorizes the department to adopt regulations; and sets statutory definitions.

Section 21: Renumbered sec. 1 Includes minor drafting edits.

Section 22: Renumbered sec. 2.

Section 23: Renumbered sec. 3

Section 24; Amends AS 08.95.110; Adds a new subsection requiring applicants for a multistate license as a social worker under AS 08.95.200 to submit fingerprints and fees for state and national criminal history record checks through the Department of Public Safety. Information obtained may be used only to determine qualifications and fitness for the multistate license.

Section 25: Renumbered sec. 4.

Section 26: Renumbered sec. 5.

Section 27: Renumbered sec. 6.

Section 28: Renumbered sec. 7.

Section 29: Amends AS 09.55.560(2); Adding respiratory care practitioners licensed under AS 08.90 to the definition of “health care provider” used in the medical malpractice statute.

Section 30: Amends AS 09.65.300(c)(1); Adding respiratory care practitioners to the definition of “health care provider” used in the civil-liability immunity statute for free health care services.

Section 31: Amends AS 12.62.400(a)(4); Amends the criminal justice information statute to clarify that the existing audiology and speech-language pathology licensure entry includes a compact privilege under AS 08.11.300.

Section 32: Amends AS 12.62.400(a)(10); Amends the criminal justice information statutes to clarify that the existing physical therapy/occupational therapy licensure entry includes a compact privilege to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under AS 08.84.188.

Section 33: Amends AS 12.62.400(a); Adds four new paragraphs authorizing criminal justice information access for: expedited physician/osteopath licensure under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; physician assistant licensure including PA Compact privilege; psychologist licensure including authority to practice under PSYPACT; and EMS technician/paramedic certification or licensure including the EMS compact privilege.

Section 34: Amends AS 12.62.400(a); Renumbered sec. 8.

Section 35: Amends AS 14.30.141(e); Adding respiratory care practitioners to the definition of “health care provider” for purposes of the school health statutes.

Section 36: Amends AS 18.08.082; Adding new subsections to the EMS personnel licensure statute requiring fingerprint submission and state and national criminal history record checks for applicants for EMS technician, mobile intensive care paramedic, and advanced EMS technician licensure or certification.

Section 37: Amends AS 18.08; Adds a new section, Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA). The compact establishes a privilege to practice for licensed EMS

personnel across member states, governed by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, and includes provisions on eligibility, scope of practice, adverse actions, the data system, rulemaking, oversight, dispute resolution, effective date, withdrawal, amendment, and construction and severability.

Section 38: Amends AS 21.36.090(d); Amending the unfair-discrimination statute under group health insurance to add respiratory care practitioners to the list of providers protected from unfair discrimination when the service falls within the provider’s licensed scope.

Section 39: Amends AS 44.29; Adds new Article 5A establishing the Rural Health Transformation Program Advisory Council in the Department of Health, an eight-member council that advises the department on the state’s participation in the federal rural health transformation program. The council is chaired by the deputy commissioner of health (nonvoting) and includes appointed members representing tribal health organizations, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, local government, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, plus one legislator from each chamber. The new sections also direct the department to establish grant scoring criteria, publish program information on the department’s website, deliver annual federal reports to the legislature, and authorize the department to award grants in a manner consistent with the state’s approved federal application. Definitions are provided for “approved application,” “council,” “department,” and “rural health transformation program.”

Section 40: Repealers; Provides that AS 44.29.410, 44.29.420, and 44.29.450 (the rural health transformation program provisions added by Section 39) are repealed December 31, 2031, sunsetting the program and its advisory council.

Section 41: Transition Language; Adding an uncodified transition provision allowing a person engaged in the practice of respiratory care on the day before the effective date of Sections 1–3, 20–30, 34, 35, and 38 to continue practicing without an AS 08.90 license for up to one year after that effective date.

Section 42, Effective Date: Specifying that Sections 1–3, 20–30, 34, 35, 38, and 41 take effect January 1, 2027.