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Senate Bill 115: Sectional Analysis

Section 1. Amends AS 08.64.107 by changing the term “regulation” to “licensure and scope of practice.”

Section 2. Amends AS 08.64.107 by adding four new subsections:

Subsection (b) describes the procedures and evaluations physician assistants can perform, including their ability to: perform comprehensive health histories and physical examinations of patients; treat disease and injury; and prescribe, dispense, order, and administer schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under federal law if the physician assistant has a valid federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration number.

Subsection (c) establishes that a physician assistant with less than 2,000 hours of practice may practice only under collaborative agreement with one (or more) physician to provide care in a hospital, clinic, or other clinical setting. These collaborative agreements must be in writing and describe how the collaboration will be executed between the physician and physician assistant.

Subsection (d) requires that a physician assistant in a collaborative agreement or the collaborating physician shall provide a copy of their collaborative agreement and relevant documentation to the State Medical Board upon request.

Subsection (e) defines collaborative agreement.

Section 3. Amends 08.64.170 to authorize a physician assistant to practice medicine independently, with those practicing with less than 2000 hours required to operate under a collaborative agreement as authorized in the previous section.

Section 4. Amends AS 11.71.900 to include physician assistants under the definition of “practitioner.”

Section 5. Amends AS 21.07.010 to disallow a contract between a participating health care provider and health care insurer from including a provision that imposes a practice, education, or collaboration requirement on physician assistants which is inconsistent with or more restrictive than the requirements stipulated under AS 08.64.107.

Section 6. Removes the direct supervision requirement for physician assistants under the definition of “attending physician” as stated in AS 23.30.395, which allows employees to designate physician assistants as responsible for their care under the Alaska Workers Compensation Act.

Section 7. Removes the direct supervision requirement for physician assistants under the definition of “health care provider” as stated in AS 33.30.901, which allows physician assistants to provide medical services as a health care provider within the Department of Corrections statute definition.