



# STATE OF ALASKA

## **HB371: Medical Review Organizations**

Representative Justin Ruffridge



# Medical Review Organizations

## Why

To review injuries, deaths, and illness in order to provide insight for public policy and health interventions to improve Alaskan's health.

## How

In-depth review of deaths, injuries, and illnesses by examining clinical records and additional data.

## Who

Hospitals, clinics, associations of health care providers, professional standards organizations, the State Medical Board, health care accreditation organizations, and those established by the Commissioner of Health to review public health issues.



# Intent

Modify public health organizations to **improve the committee process.**

Support a more **efficient process** that ensures **appropriate representation** of staff, partners, and external experts.

**Better utilize the review committee process** to prevent and reduce avoidable deaths and injuries.



# HB 371 – Changes to Existing Statutes

- Allows a review organization to publish a report containing data or information acquired in the exercise of its duties, ensuring the report does not violate federal or state law regarding confidentiality of a person or decedent.
- Broadens who can serve on the review organizations.
- Changes who can approve Department of Health morbidity or mortality review organizations from the *Alaska State Medical Board* to the *Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health*.
- Removes composition requirement of 75% health care providers.
- Broadens who can establish review organizations.



# Reasoning

- **This bill increases flexibility to ensure appropriate representation across diverse review committees.**
- This bill removes the current list of health care providers allowed to be on the review committee. This bill modifies the requirement of the health care committee of having 75% health care providers. The current **definition of health care providers in the current statute is narrow and missing key types.**
- **Current law requires that the Alaska State Medical Board approve members of Department of Health review organizations**, not allowing for efficient and effective decision making tailored to committee needs.



# Public Health Review Committee

## *Examples*

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### Maternal Child Death Review Committee

All cases of infant, child, and maternal death.

### Overdose Fatality Review Committee

Sample of cases where primary cause of death was drug-related.

### Congenital Syphilis Review Board

Sample of congenital syphilis cases.



# Questions?

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