



## Senate Bill 89: Sectional Analysis

**Section 1.** Removes state medical board (SMB) reference to AS 08.64.107 Regulation of Physician Assistants which is repealed and reenacted in a later section.

**Section 2.** Repeals and reenacts 08.64.107 to restructure the physician assistant authorizing statutes.

**Subsection (a)** directs the SMB to adopt regulations related to the acts within the practice of medicine that physician assistants (PAs) may perform, which must allow for PA practice of acts they are generally educated and trained to perform. This subsection specifically prevents PAs from performing surgery without supervision. This subsection also directs the SMB to promulgate regulations for PAs who switch specialty, and the methods by which a collaborating physician will assess a PA.

**Subsection (b)** establishes that a PA with less than 4,000 postgraduate clinical hours may only practice under a collaborating agreement. These collaborative agreements must be in writing and describe the specialty the hours are completed within, as well as the oversight methods.

**Subsection (c)** outlines that assessment for PAs practicing in rural areas can be done telephonically or via video.

**Subsection (d)** outlines the process for a PA to notify the SMB if they begin to practice a new specialty.

**Subsection (e)** requires a copy of the collaborative agreement be provided to the SMB. At such a time as the PA reaches the required postgraduate hours, they shall notify the SMB and complete an attestation provided by the SMB.

**Subsection (f)** directs the SMB to assess whether that specialty will require additional requirements or hours. For specialty change, or in other regulation change, the requirements are not to exceed the clinical hours required in subsection (b).

**Section 3.** Amends 08.64 to add a new section laying out the qualifications for physician assistant qualifications for licensure.

**Section 4.** Amends 08.64.230 to add an additional section directing the SMB or its executive secretary to grant a license to qualified applicants.

**Section 5.** Amends the existing statute to include physician assistants in the list of medical practitioners whose licensure we recognize from other states and provinces of Canada.



## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Löki Gale Tobin  
*Education Committee Chair*

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**Section 6.** This amends 08.64.250 to include PAs in the existing temporary licensure process and reference the new applicable section 08.64.206.

**Section 7.** This section amends the existing statute to include physician assistants alongside the other medical practitioners in the list of temporary licensure and substitute roles in different medical facilities.

**Section 8:** Adds a subsection to include PAs in the fee requirement when applying for a license.

**Section 9:** Amends the section to include PAs in the existing statute regarding the SMBs parameters for evaluating any extenuating circumstances to waive certain requirements for meeting licensure qualifications.

**Section 10.** This section amends AS 08.64.326 subsection (a) to include PAs in the existing statutes regarding the process for being sanctioned for crime, misrepresentation, and failure to pay fees, to name a few of the examples given in the statute.

**Section 11.** This amends the existing statute to include PAs in the existing voluntary surrender provisions in AS 08.64.334.

**Section 12.** This amends the existing statute to include PAs in the process for medical practitioners who treat fellow licensed medical practitioners for alcoholism, drug addiction, and mental/emotional disorders who might constitute a danger to their patients or themselves, to report to the SMB.

**Section 13.** Grants immunity in civil liability for PAs who submit a report in good faith to the SMB relating to addictive substances abuse.

**Section 14.** Amends statute so that PAs cannot refuse to submit a report to the SMB or withhold evidence on the grounds that it is under doctor-patient confidentiality.

**Section 15.** Updates the statute covering all state licensees under this chapter, including PAs, to specify that if they practice without a valid license, they are guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

**Section 16.** Amends the statute to include PAs in the list of medical providers who can support a licensed physician in another state, in the support of the regular medical service of the United States Public Health Service, or volunteering services to the armed services of the US among other unique medical support situations.

**Section 17.** Amends the statute to allow physicians assistants to show their PA credentials to communicate their qualifications.

**Section 18.** Amends 08.64.380 to include PAs as providers who can accept concurrent referrals for systemic disease treatment.



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**Section 19:** Amends the definition of practitioner to include physician assistant in the statute.

**Section 20:** Puts in statute the definition of physician assistant.

**Section 21:** Amends the statute referenced to be in line with the repealed statutes removed by previous sections.

**Section 22:** Adds a section under AS 21.07.010 to prevent any requirements within a health care insurance policy from being more restrictive than or inconsistent with the practice, education, or collaboration provisions outlined in AS 08.64.

**Section 23:** Updates the definition of licensed physician assistants to remove the supervision requirement allowing for PAs who have completed their postgraduate clinical requirements and are no longer subject to a collaborating physician agreement to continue their practice.

**Section 24:** Amends the statute to include physician assistant in the definition of health care provider in statute.