



# 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.



# Public Health Review Committee

## *Examples*

### 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.



# 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.



# Current Statutes

- Current statute is ambiguous as to whether medical review organizations can publish reports.
- Current definition of healthcare provider in the bill is very narrow.
- The Alaska State Medical Board approves medical review organizations.
- Current statute requires 75% of membership be healthcare providers.
- Current statute only allows one accrediting organization to accredit medical review organizations.



# HB 371

- 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.
- This bill removes the current list of healthcare providers allowed to be on the review committee.
- This bill modifies the requirement of the health care committee of having 75% health care providers.
- 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.
- Broadens who can establish review organizations.





# Questions?

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