



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Anna MacKinnon – Senate District G

Senate Bill 126 Sponsor Statement

“An Act providing for an exception to the regulation of the practice of medicine for a physician who provides medical services to an athletic team from another state.”

Competitive sports teams typically have a team physician who provides care for the athletes. When the team travels out of state, the physician often accompanies them. However, if an athlete is injured or needs a prescription filled while traveling in Alaska, the team physician would not be able to provide care without being licensed here.

Senate Bill 126 would provide an exemption for state licensure for this narrow circumstance. The physician would have to be licensed to practice medicine in another state, under a written contract to provide care to an athletic team in that state, and would be limited to providing services to members of the team while they are traveling or participating in a sporting event in Alaska.

The bill is a narrow solution to a specific problem. Thirty-five other states have passed similar legislation to ensure that the doctors who know their patients best can continue to treat them.