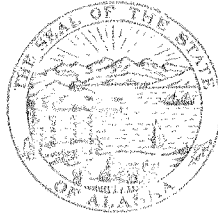


ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL

Senate Bill 166 Sponsor Statement Board of Nursing

The Board of Nursing protects the Alaska public by regulating the practice of certified nurse aides, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), Registered Nurses (RNs), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs).

It has been over 10 years since the Board of Nursing has updated its statutes. Senate Bill 166 updates Nursing statutes to keep abreast of the many changes in the nursing profession.

SB 166 adds establishment of a retired nurse status, similar to retired medical license status.

When the Board was established, there were only LPNs and RNs, but this is no longer the case. SB 166 proposes to identify one designated position on the Board of Nursing to be an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, to represent the advanced scope of practice level. This will not add any seats on the Board; it simply designates one of the board seats for the advanced practice level.

The Board of Nursing approves Alaska nursing educational programs. Since the accrediting requirements are constantly changing and there are an increasing number of educational institutions in Alaska, the Board will continue to provide oversight approval of educational programs in Alaska utilizing accreditation by a national nursing accrediting body.

Senate Bill 166 adjusts the Board of Nursing's title for their executive secretary, changing it to "Executive Administrator" to better reflect the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Please join me in support of the Board of Nursing and these necessary statute changes set out in Senate Bill 166.