



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

BOARD OF NURSING

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February 28, 2014

RE: SB 166 "An Act relating to nursing and to the Board of Nursing"

To Whom It May Concern,

The members of the Board of Nursing at the January 2014 Board meeting unanimously approved the proposed changes to AS 08.68 reflected in SB 166. The bill is predominately a "clean up" bill to update the wording and sections of the statute, AS 08.68, that are outdated. Section 13 adds a new section requiring employers to report to the Board nurses or nurse aides who are fired or suspended. This section mirrors a section in the medical board's statute which results in an investigation and potential disciplinary action against a licensee if warranted. This is a protection to the public that has previously not been in the statute.

The Board of Nursing has at its mission the protection of the public through licensing qualified nurses and nurse aides. The proposed changes accomplish this mission by updating licensure and practice standards and by clarifying the statute's wording. The statute has not been revised for over a decade.

One example, of how the statute is outdated is as follows: the testing of applicants for nursing licenses has used "computer adaptive" methods for fifteen years. Currently, licensing examinations are given whenever the Board approves an applicant and the applicant schedules it at a testing center. However, the statute wording in AS 08.68 still reflects licensing examinations given by paper and pencil twice a year.

As stated earlier, the Board of Nursing fully supports the changes in AS 08.68 that passage of SB 166 would accomplish. As the Executive Administrator for the Board of Nursing, I, too, fully support passage of SB 166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Sanders".

Nancy Sanders, PhD, RN
Executive Administrator