

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

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Dear Alaska Professional Licensing Boards and Commissions:

Many of you have shared concerns about the biennial changes to the amount of licensing fees required by present law. With that in mind, HB 187 has been introduced this legislative session to incorporate three different means to mitigate the occurrence of significant fee changes during the fee-setting process.

If passed, HB 187 will allow for a) fee collection to balance revenues with expenses over multiple biennial licensing cycles, b) consolidation of certain fee types within a given program to reduce handling costs, and c) annual appropriation of general funds to offset the cost of professional licensing investigation and enforcement actions to protect the public.

Under HB 187, annual review of revenues and expenses would continue, and Boards and Commissions would continue to make recommendations on rate changes. Further, the legislature would annually consider an appropriation from the general fund to fund only the personal services costs of those employees of the Department who perform the investigative function. Professional licensees would continue to self-fund all other costs via licensing fees.

The Department values your support and invites all licensees and members of professional licensing Boards and Commissions to comment on this newly introduced bill.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at 465-2538 or don.haberger@alaska.gov, with a copy to Sara Chambers, Professional Licensing Administrative Operations Manager, at sara.chambers@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Don Habeger

Director