

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:
Senate District D
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla AK 99654
Phone: 907-376-4866
Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov



Session:
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau AK 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-3878
Toll-Free: 800-862-3878
Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Senator David Wilson

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 105: MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSES AND SERVICES

"An Act relating to the licensure of marital and family therapists; relating to professional liability insurance for marital and family therapists; relating to medical assistance for marital and family therapy services; and providing for an effective date."

If enacted, Senate Bill 105 would add licensed Marital and Family Therapists to the list of independent licensed practitioners, in order to address the shortage of Medicaid-eligible behavioral health providers in the state, afford more options for beneficiaries, and increase access to care.

Currently, licensed marital and family therapists (MFTs) are only allowed to provide services in community health clinics or physician mental health clinics, which limits the number of willing providers in the mental health care arena. SB 105 expands medical assistance reimbursement services to cover those services provided by MFTs.

Specifically, SB 105

- Designates LMFTs as providers eligible to render and bill for Medicaid-funded services as independent practitioners under Alaska Statute 47.07.030 (b)
- Clarifies supervisory requirements for Marital Family Therapist Licensees
- Requires Marital Family Therapists Licensees to carry Liability Insurance for Regulatory Investigation Fees of at least \$30,000.

In 2016, the Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy unanimously recommended the statute changes contained in SB 105.

I encourage your support of Senate Bill 105.

Contact: Gary Zepp
(907) 465-4711
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