



March 11, 2019

The Honorable Senator Natasha Von Imhof
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Von Imhof:

You have requested additional information following the March 1 Senate Finance Committee hearing on SB 36. Please find the following responses to your questions below:

1. **How many nurses are currently licensed and how many of those provide services solely via distance delivery (telehealth)? If this data is not available, could you provide how many licensees are state residents vs. non-residents and any additional context to help the committee understand how services are delivered by non-residents?**

We cannot currently verify which individual nurses provide telehealth services outside Alaska. This can be done through a programming change to our licensing database and update of the license application; however, there has been no demonstrated need to allocate resources to track this data.

We cannot assume whether a nurse works exclusively through telehealth by his/her address. Many nurses are short-term "travelers" or case management nurses who work in Alaska. They have permanent addresses on record that are out of state and used only for mail correspondence. Our current records reflect 7,191 out-of-state and 7,899 in-state addresses for licensed nurses.

2. **Could the state charge a different license fee for nurses that provide services solely via telehealth?**

There is no statutory mandate to charge a different fee for licensees practicing solely by telehealth, and the current administrative processes do not include capturing and analyzing fees differently among practice modalities or locations.

3. **What is the status of the telehealth regulations process?** Telehealth nursing regulations have been drafted by the Board of Nursing and reviewed by the Department of Law. They will come before the newly organized board for review at their April meeting.

4. **The April 27, 2018 Legislative Sunset Review of the Board of Nursing found that the Board of Pharmacy and Drug Enforcement Administration were not informed of eight APRNs that lost their prescriptive authority between July 1, 2014 and January 31, 2018. Due to this lack of notification, were the APRNs identified able to prescribe controlled substances while they were not authorized?** All licensees, including APRNs, are notified when they are under investigation and when a board acts on their license. Once prescriptive authority has been revoked from an APRN license, the nurse cannot legally prescribe in the state.

Please let me know if you have additional questions regarding this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Chambers
Division Director

cc: Fred Parady, Legislative Liaison