

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

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March 4, 2020

The Honorable David Wilson Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee Alaska State Capitol Room 115 Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: SB 179 – Hearing Follow-up

Dear Senator Wilson:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill (SB) 179 to the Senate Health and Social Services Committee. Below are the outstanding answers to questions posed by committee members:

Senator Giessel asked how many temporary licenses we issued to nurses last year. We issued 186 temporary licenses to Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses in 2019.

Senator Wilson asked if we could charge a fee to nurses who work in Alaska on a multistate license. States cannot charge fees to out-of-state nurses practicing on multistate licenses. However, states may set a fee for their own multistate license so it is higher than their own single-state license.

Senator Wilson asked whether we could identify the locations of nurses practicing in Alaska.

The Board of Nursing could adopt a regulation requiring nurses to register their locations or employers to register their nurse employees in the existing national NURSYS database. The board currently does not track nurse work locations or monitor their employers.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or require additional information. We look forward to continuing the discussion of SB 179 with the members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee on Friday, March 6.

Sincerely,

Sara Chambers

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Director