



Baxter | Cheney Lake | Chugach Foothills | Muldoon | Scenic Park | Stuckagain Heights

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS
HB 145: EXPAND PHARMACIST AUTHORITY
Ver. A

Sec. 1: Adds language to *AS 08.80.030(b) Powers and Duties of the Board*, statute that outlines the Board of Pharmacy’s powers, that allows the Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules to regulate the independent monitoring of drug therapy and independent pharmacist prescribing of vaccines and naloxone.

Sec. 2: Adds a new subsection to *AS 08.80.045 Nonprescription Drugs* that aligns statute with the current practice of pharmacists recommending non-prescription medications and devices for treating minor and self-limited conditions.

Sec. 3: Amends *AS 08.80.155 Emergency Permit* to increase the Board of Pharmacy’s flexibility to grant emergency licenses for all relevant licenses used in pharmacies.

Sec. 4: Amends *AS 08.80.168(a) Administration of Vaccines and Related Emergency Medications* by adding “prescribe” to existing vaccine administration statute.

Sec. 5: Amends *AS 08.80.168(b)* by replacing “dispense” with “prescribe and administer” in regards to administering an opioid overdose drug.

Sec. 6: Adds a new subsection to *AS 08.80.168* that allows a pharmacy technician to administer a vaccine or related emergency medication but only if they have been authorized by the Board of Pharmacy to do so AND if they are under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist who meets the requirements in *AS 08.80.168 (a)*.

Sec. 7: Adds language to *AS 08.80.297(a) Prescription Prices Available to Consumer* that allows personnel who are not licensed pharmacists to disclose the cost of filling a prescription when directed by a pharmacist working at the same institution.

Sec. 8: Amends *AS 08.080 Pharmacists and Pharmacies* by adding a new section, *AS 08.80.337 Other Patient Care Services*, that:

- Allows a pharmacist to provide patient care services for a disease or condition with an existing diagnosis under an agreement made with and approved by a practitioner
- Limits patient care services that pharmacists can provide to those that are minor, self-limiting, and have a CLIA-waived laboratory test which guides clinical decision making.
- Provides language that allows pharmacists to be reimbursed for providing these services

Sec. 9: Amends *AS 08.80.480 Definitions* by removing “dosage form” as a definition of “equivalent drug product”. This allows pharmacists to make minor, non-therapeutic changes to prescriptions using clinical judgement and expertise without contacting the prescriber for verbal or written approval. This does not allow a pharmacist to substitute a dosage form that would negatively impact patient outcomes, safety, or cost effectiveness. Examples of appropriate substitutions under this section include changing from a tablet form of medication to a capsule form of the same medication and strength.

Sec. 10: Amends *AS 08.80.480(30)* by adding “dispensing” and “independent prescribing” to the definition of the “Practice of Pharmacy” to align with the changes made in Section 4 & 5 (*AS 08.80.168*) of this bill. These additions better represent actual provision of naloxone and vaccine by pharmacists.

Sec. 11: Amends *AS 21.36.090(d) Unfair Discrimination* to include “pharmacists” as protected health care providers in the provider anti-discrimination statute. This aligns the state statute with federal statute (CFR 438.12) and afford pharmacists the same protection as all other healthcare providers when engaging health plans for covered services such as ordering laboratory tests, point-of-care testing, vaccine prescribing and administration, preventative health services, managing minor self-limiting conditions, and participating in collaborative disease state management.