

# Alaska State Legislature

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Senate Majority Leader  
Senate District E  
907-465-4843



120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alaska State Capitol,  
Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

## Senate Bill 94 Sponsor Statement

*"An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to the practice of pharmacy; relating to pharmacies; relating to prescription drug manufacturers; relating to prescriptions for epinephrine; relating to the administration of epinephrine; and providing for an effective date."*

Pharmacists and pharmacies are an integral part of Alaska's healthcare system. It is important that the Alaska statutes that guide them are updated and reflect the services provided by modern-day pharmacies.

Senate Bill 94 clarifies the Alaska Board of Pharmacy's powers and duties to align with the federal Drug Supply Chain and Security Act (DSCSA) related to licensing and oversight of manufacturers, out-of-state pharmacies, outsourcing facilities, and internet pharmacies who conduct business in Alaska. In doing so, these out-of-state entities will be held to the same high standard as those operating in the state of Alaska, helping to ensure Alaskans have access to medications that are safe, no matter where they originate.

SB 94 aligns Alaska's pharmacy board statutes with similar boards in other states. It allows for it to meaningfully recognize retired pharmacists and their contributions. Stressing the importance of public safety, SB94 would allow the board to institute a national criminal background check for Alaska pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This would align the Alaska Board of Pharmacy with the National Association of Boards and Pharmacy Model State Pharmacy Act.

The Executive Administrator plays a critical role in the smooth functioning of the board and requires a high degree of competency and understanding of the complexities of pharmacy-related regulations and issues. This bill gives Alaska's Division of Professional Licensing flexibility to hire a qualified pharmacist for this administrative role should one apply.

The changes proposed in Senate Bill 94 reflect a dedicated collaboration between the Alaska Board of Pharmacy and the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) to modernize pharmacy practice statutes.