

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Justin Ruffridge
District 7 - Kenai/Soldotna

HB 56

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is HB 56 different from SB 132 last year?

A: No. HB 56 accomplishes the same objectives as the proposed SB132 in the 32nd Legislature.

Q: What are the current practices HB 56 would change?

A: Firstly, under current statute Veterinarians are required to look up and report information under the owner of the pet. Veterinarians are not included under HIPPA. Secondly, Veterinarians are not trained in human medical treatment, but are required to review human medical information under current statute.

Q: Are you saying that currently my Veterinarian is required to look at my medical information that includes my health information including medications, conditions etc?

A: Under current statutes the answer is yes. HB 56 would change that practice of looking at every person's medical record.

Q: Does HB 56 impact or change the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for physicians who treat human patients?

A: No. HB 56 only applies to Veterinarians.

Q: Does Veterinarians usually prescribe narcotics to animals?

A: Not typically. For opioids prescriptions, Veterinarians account for approximately 0.34% of all opioid prescribing in the U.S., and the medication most commonly prescribed is...XXX

Q: If HB 56 passes, would Veterinarians be able to prescribe narcotics to animals?

A: Yes, they would prescribe medications that are appropriate for medical condition of the animal they are treating.

Q: If HB 56 passes, what would prevent a Veterinarian from prescribing narcotics to animals that are instead used illegally by their owner?

A: Veterinarians, physicians, pharmacists and all other members of the medical profession use professional due diligence when prescribing medications.