

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

**HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 53(L&C)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 1/27/16

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS GIESSEL, McGuire, Costello, Stoltze, Micciche, MacKinnon, Egan, Bishop

REPRESENTATIVES Kawasaki, Gattis, Wilson, Gara, Hughes, Tilton, Spohnholz, Tarr, Josephson

**A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to advanced practice registered nursing; relating to certified direct-  
 2 entry midwifery; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 08.02.010(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) An acupuncturist licensed under AS 08.06, an audiologist or speech-  
 6 language pathologist licensed under AS 08.11, a behavior analyst licensed under  
 7 AS 08.15, a person licensed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a  
 8 professional counselor licensed under AS 08.29, a dentist under AS 08.36, a dietitian  
 9 or nutritionist licensed under AS 08.38, a massage therapist licensed under AS 08.61,  
 10 a marital and family therapist licensed under AS 08.63, a medical practitioner or  
 11 osteopath under AS 08.64, a direct-entry midwife certified under AS 08.65, a  
 12 registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist  
 13 under AS 08.72, a licensed pharmacist under AS 08.80, a physical therapist or  
 14 occupational therapist licensed under AS 08.84, a psychologist under AS 08.86, or a

1 clinical social worker licensed under AS 08.95, shall use as professional identification  
 2 appropriate letters or a title after that person's name that represents the person's  
 3 specific field of practice. The letters or title shall appear on all signs, stationery, or  
 4 other advertising in which the person offers or displays personal professional services  
 5 to the public. In addition, a person engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathy  
 6 as defined in AS 08.64.380, or a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who  
 7 diagnoses, treats, tests, or counsels other persons in relation to human health or disease  
 8 and uses the letters "M.D." or the title "doctor" or "physician" or another title that  
 9 tends to show that the person is willing or qualified to diagnose, treat, test, or counsel  
 10 another person, shall clarify the letters or title by adding the appropriate specialist  
 11 designation, if any, such as "dermatologist," "radiologist," "audiologist," "naturopath,"  
 12 or the like.

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.29.210(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) The board shall approve and certify a person as an approved counselor  
 15 supervisor for the purposes of this chapter if the person

16 (1) is licensed as a professional counselor or is a licensed physician,  
 17 licensed advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] who is certified to  
 18 provide psychiatric or mental health services, licensed clinical social worker, licensed  
 19 marital and family therapist, licensed psychologist, or licensed psychological  
 20 associate;

21 (2) submits an application for certification and the appropriate fee;

22 (3) has five years of counseling experience;

23 (4) provides to the board for its approval or disapproval a statement  
 24 that details the person's supervision philosophy, orientation, and experience; and

25 (5) meets other criteria that may be established by the board in  
 26 regulations.

27 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.65.140 is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 08.65.140. Required practices.** The board shall adopt regulations  
 29 regarding the practice of direct-entry midwifery. At a minimum, the regulations must  
 30 require that a certified direct-entry midwife

31 (1) recommend, before care or delivery of a client, that the client

1 undergo a physical examination performed by a physician, physician assistant, or  
 2 advanced practice registered nurse [PRACTITIONER, OR CERTIFIED NURSE  
 3 MIDWIFE] who is licensed in this state;

4 (2) obtain informed consent from a client before onset of labor;

5 (3) comply with AS 18.15.150 regarding taking of blood samples,  
 6 AS 18.15.200 regarding screening of phenylketonuria (PKU), AS 18.50.160 regarding  
 7 birth registration, AS 18.50.230 regarding registration of deaths, AS 18.50.240  
 8 regarding fetal death registration, and regulations adopted by the Department of  
 9 Health and Social Services concerning prophylactic treatment of the eyes of newborn  
 10 infants;

11 (4) not knowingly deliver a woman with certain types of health  
 12 conditions, prior history, or complications as specified by the board.

13 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 08.68.010 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 08.68.010. Creation and membership of Board of Nursing.** There is  
 15 created a Board of Nursing, consisting of seven members appointed by the governor as  
 16 follows:

17 (1) one member shall be a licensed practical nurse who is currently  
 18 engaged in licensed practical nursing and has practiced for at least two years  
 19 immediately preceding appointment;

20 (2) one member shall be a registered nurse engaged in nursing  
 21 education at the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree level at an institution that  
 22 holds national nursing accreditation;

23 (3) one member shall be an advanced practice registered nurse  
 24 [PRACTITIONER] who is currently engaged in advanced practice registered nursing  
 25 and has practiced for at least four years immediately preceding appointment;

26 (4) two members shall be registered nurses at large who are currently  
 27 engaged in registered nursing and have practiced for at least four years immediately  
 28 preceding appointment; and

29 (5) two members shall be persons who have no direct financial interest  
 30 in the health care industry.

31 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 08.68.100(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) The board shall

2 (1) adopt regulations necessary to implement this chapter, including  
3 regulations

4 (A) pertaining to practice as an advanced **practice registered**  
5 **nurse, including requirements for an advanced practice registered nurse to**  
6 **practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified clinical nurse**  
7 **specialist, certified nurse practitioner, or certified nurse midwife**  
8 [PRACTITIONER AND A CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE  
9 ANESTHETIST];

10 (B) necessary to implement AS 08.68.331 - 08.68.336 relating  
11 to certified nurse aides in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of  
12 clients served by nurse aides;

13 (C) pertaining to retired nurse status; and

14 (D) establishing criteria for approval of practical nurse  
15 education programs that are not accredited by a national nursing accrediting  
16 body;

17 (2) approve curricula and adopt standards for basic education programs  
18 that prepare persons for licensing under AS 08.68.190;

19 (3) provide for surveys of the basic nursing education programs in the  
20 state at the times it considers necessary;

21 (4) approve education programs that meet the requirements of this  
22 chapter and of the board, and deny, revoke, or suspend approval of education  
23 programs for failure to meet the requirements;

24 (5) examine, license, and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;

25 (6) prescribe requirements for competence before a former **registered,**  
26 **advanced practice registered, or licensed practical** nurse may resume the practice  
27 of nursing under this chapter;

28 (7) define by regulation the qualifications and duties of the executive  
29 administrator and delegate authority to the executive administrator that is necessary to  
30 conduct board business;

31 (8) develop reasonable and uniform standards for nursing practice;

1 (9) publish advisory opinions regarding whether nursing practice  
 2 procedures or policies comply with acceptable standards of nursing practice as defined  
 3 under this chapter;

4 (10) require applicants under this chapter to submit fingerprints and the  
 5 fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal  
 6 justice information and a national criminal history record check; the department shall  
 7 submit the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of  
 8 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record  
 9 check under AS 12.62.400.

10 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 08.68.160 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 08.68.160. License required.** A person practicing or offering to practice  
 12 **registered, advanced practice registered,** [PROFESSIONAL] or practical nursing in  
 13 the state shall submit evidence of qualification to practice and shall be licensed under  
 14 this chapter.

15 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 08.68.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 (c) An applicant for a license to practice advanced practice registered nursing  
 17 shall submit to the board, on forms and in the manner prescribed by the board, written  
 18 evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant

19 (1) is licensed as a registered nurse in the state; and

20 (2) has successfully completed an advanced practice registered nurse  
 21 education program that meets the criteria established by the board under  
 22 AS 08.68.100.

23 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 08.68.190 is repealed and reenacted to read:

24 **Sec. 08.68.190. License by examination.** (a) An applicant for a license to  
 25 practice

26 (1) registered or practical nursing shall pass a registered nursing or  
 27 practical nursing licensing examination as prescribed by the board;

28 (2) advanced practice registered nursing shall pass an advanced  
 29 practice registered nursing certification examination as prescribed by the board.

30 (b) If an applicant meets the qualifications set out in AS 08.68.170 for the  
 31 license for which the applicant applied, the board shall issue a license to practice

1 (1) registered or practical nursing to an applicant who passes the  
2 licensing examination to practice registered or practical nursing; or

3 (2) advanced practice registered nursing to an applicant who passes the  
4 advanced practice registered nursing certification examination to practice advanced  
5 practice registered nursing.

6 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 08.68.200 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 08.68.200. License by endorsement.** (a) The board may issue a license  
8 by endorsement to practice as a registered, advanced practice registered, or practical  
9 nurse, whichever is appropriate, to an applicant who has worked as a nurse within the  
10 past five years if the applicant is licensed as [EITHER] a registered, advanced  
11 practice registered, or practical nurse under the laws of another state if, in the  
12 opinion of the board, the applicant meets the qualifications required for licensing in  
13 the state and meets the requirements of AS 08.68.170.

14 (b) The board may issue a license by endorsement to practice as a registered,  
15 advanced practice registered, or practical nurse, whichever is appropriate, to an  
16 applicant who has not worked as a nurse within the past five years if the applicant  
17 meets the requirements of (a) of this section and

18 (1) meets the continuing competency requirements of the board; or

19 (2) completes a course of study approved by the board.

20 \* **Sec. 10.** AS 08.68.220 is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 08.68.220. Fees.** The Department of Commerce, Community, and  
22 Economic Development shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for each of the following:

23 (1) registered nursing:

24 (A) application;

25 (B) license by examination;

26 (C) license by endorsement;

27 (D) license renewal;

28 (E) temporary permit;

29 (2) practical [OR VOCATIONAL] nursing:

30 (A) application;

31 (B) license by examination;

1 (C) license by endorsement;

2 (D) license renewal;

3 (E) temporary permit;

4 **(3) advanced practice registered nursing:**

5 **(A) application;**

6 **(B) license by certification examination;**

7 **(C) license by endorsement;**

8 **(D) license renewal;**

9 **(E) temporary permit.**

10 \* **Sec. 11.** AS 08.68.230(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) A person licensed to practice registered nursing in the state may use the  
12 title ["LICENSED PROFESSIONAL NURSE,"] "registered nurse [,]" and the  
13 abbreviation "R.N."

14 \* **Sec. 12.** AS 08.68.230 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

15 (e) A person licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the  
16 state may use the title "advanced practice registered nurse" and the abbreviation  
17 "APRN."

18 (f) A person licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the  
19 state as a

20 (1) certified registered nurse anesthetist may use the title "certified  
21 registered nurse anesthetist" and the abbreviation "CRNA";

22 (2) certified clinical nurse specialist may use the title "clinical nurse  
23 specialist" and the abbreviation "CNS";

24 (3) certified nurse practitioner may use the title "certified nurse  
25 practitioner" and the abbreviation "CNP"; or

26 (4) certified nurse midwife may use the title "certified nurse midwife"  
27 and the abbreviation "CNM."

28 \* **Sec. 13.** AS 08.68.265 is amended to read:

29 **Sec. 08.68.265. Supervision of practical nurses.** A practical nurse shall work  
30 under the supervision of a licensed registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse,  
31 a licensed physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a licensed dentist.

1 \* **Sec. 14.** AS 08.68.270 is amended to read:

2 **Sec. 08.68.270. Grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation.** The board  
3 may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who

4 (1) has obtained or attempted to obtain a license to practice nursing by  
5 fraud or deceit;

6 (2) has been convicted of a felony or other crime if the felony or other  
7 crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the licensee;

8 (3) habitually abuses alcoholic beverages, or illegally uses controlled  
9 substances;

10 (4) has impersonated a registered, **advanced practice registered,** or  
11 practical nurse;

12 (5) has intentionally or negligently engaged in conduct that has  
13 resulted in a significant risk to the health or safety of a client or in injury to a client;

14 (6) practices or attempts to practice nursing while afflicted with  
15 physical or mental illness, deterioration, or disability that interferes with the  
16 individual's performance of nursing functions;

17 (7) is guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by regulations  
18 adopted by the board;

19 (8) has wilfully or repeatedly violated a provision of this chapter or  
20 regulations adopted under this chapter or AS 08.01;

21 (9) is professionally incompetent;

22 (10) denies care or treatment to a patient or person seeking assistance  
23 if the sole reason for the denial is the failure or refusal of the patient or person seeking  
24 assistance to agree to arbitrate as provided in AS 09.55.535(a).

25 \* **Sec. 15.** AS 08.68.290 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 08.68.290. Application for accreditation.** An institution desiring to  
27 conduct a nursing education program to prepare registered, **advanced practice**  
28 **registered,** or practical nurses shall apply to the board and submit evidence that it is  
29 prepared to

30 (1) carry out the curriculum approved by the board for registered  
31 nursing, **advanced practice registered nursing,** or [FOR] practical nursing; and

1 (2) meet other standards established by law and by the board.

2 \* **Sec. 16.** AS 08.68.334 is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 08.68.334. Grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of certificate.**

4 The board may deny a certification to, or impose a disciplinary sanction authorized  
5 under AS 08.01.075 against, a person who

6 (1) has obtained or attempted to obtain certification as a nurse aide by  
7 fraud, deceit, or intentional misrepresentation;

8 (2) has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the  
9 qualifications, functions, or duties of a certified nurse aide;

10 (3) has impersonated a registered, **advanced practice registered,** or  
11 practical nurse or other licensed health care provider;

12 (4) has intentionally or negligently engaged in conduct that has  
13 resulted in a significant risk to the health or safety of a client or in injury to a client;

14 (5) is incapable of working as a certified nurse aide with reasonable  
15 skill, competence, and safety for the public because of

16 (A) professional incompetence;

17 (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or a drug that  
18 impairs the licensee's ability to practice safely;

19 (C) physical or mental disability; or

20 (D) other factors determined by the board;

21 (6) has knowingly or repeatedly failed to comply with this chapter, a  
22 regulation adopted under this chapter, or with an order of the board; or

23 (7) has misappropriated the property of, abused, or neglected a client.

24 \* **Sec. 17.** AS 08.68.360 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 08.68.360. Unlicensed practice a public nuisance.** The practice of  
26 **registered, advanced practice registered,** [PROFESSIONAL] or practical nursing  
27 for compensation by a person who is not licensed, or whose license is suspended, or  
28 revoked, or expired, is declared to be inimical to the public welfare and to constitute a  
29 public nuisance.

30 \* **Sec. 18.** AS 08.68.370 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 08.68.370. Application for injunction.** The board may apply for an

1 injunction in a competent court to enjoin a person not licensed or whose license is  
 2 suspended or revoked or expired from practicing **registered, advanced practice**  
 3 **registered**, [PROFESSIONAL] or practical nursing. The court may issue a temporary  
 4 injunction enjoining the defendant from practicing **registered, advanced practice**  
 5 **registered**, [PROFESSIONAL] or practical nursing.

6 \* **Sec. 19.** AS 08.68.380 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 08.68.380. Issuance of injunction.** If it is established that the defendant  
 8 has been or is practicing **registered, advanced practice registered,**  
 9 [PROFESSIONAL] or practical nursing without a license or has been or is practicing  
 10 nursing after the defendant's license has been suspended or revoked, or has expired,  
 11 the court may enjoin the defendant from further practice.

12 \* **Sec. 20.** AS 08.68.805 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 08.68.805. Delegation of nursing functions.** A registered, **advanced**  
 14 **practice registered,** or practical nurse licensed under this chapter may delegate  
 15 nursing duties to other persons, including unlicensed assistive personnel, under  
 16 regulations adopted by the board. A person to whom the nursing duties are delegated  
 17 may perform the delegated duties without a license or certificate under this chapter if  
 18 the person meets the applicable requirements established by the board.

19 \* **Sec. 21.** AS 08.68.850(1) is amended to read:

20 (1) "advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER]" means a  
 21 registered nurse **licensed** [AUTHORIZED] to practice in the state who, because of  
 22 specialized education and experience, is certified to perform acts of medical diagnosis  
 23 and the prescription and dispensing of medical, therapeutic, or corrective measures  
 24 under regulations adopted by the board;

25 \* **Sec. 22.** AS 08.68.850 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

26 (11) "practice of advanced practice registered nursing" includes, in  
 27 addition to the practice of registered nursing, the performance of acts of medical  
 28 diagnosis and the prescription and dispensing of medical, therapeutic, or corrective  
 29 measures under regulations adopted by the board.

30 \* **Sec. 23.** AS 08.80.400 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 08.80.400. Other licensees not affected.** This chapter does not affect the

1 practice of medicine by a licensed medical doctor and does not limit a licensed  
 2 medical doctor, osteopath, podiatrist, physician assistant, advanced **practice**  
 3 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], dentist, veterinarian, dispensing optician, or  
 4 optometrist in supplying a patient with any medicinal preparation or article within the  
 5 scope of the person's license.

6 \* **Sec. 24.** AS 09.65.300(c)(1) is amended to read:

7 (1) "health care provider" means a physician, physician assistant,  
 8 dentist, dental hygienist, osteopath, optometrist, chiropractor, registered nurse,  
 9 practical nurse, [NURSE MIDWIFE,] advanced **practice registered** nurse  
 10 [PRACTITIONER], naturopath, physical therapist, occupational therapist, marital and  
 11 family therapist, psychologist, psychological associate, behavior analyst, assistant  
 12 behavior analyst, licensed clinical social worker, athletic trainer, or certified direct-  
 13 entry midwife;

14 \* **Sec. 25.** AS 11.41.470(1) is amended to read:

15 (1) "health care worker" includes a person who is or purports to be an  
 16 anesthesiologist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, health aide, hypnotist, massage  
 17 therapist, mental health counselor, **certified direct-entry** midwife, nurse, **advanced**  
 18 **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], osteopath, naturopath, physical  
 19 therapist, physical therapy assistant, physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist,  
 20 psychologist, psychological associate, radiologist, religious healing practitioner,  
 21 surgeon, x-ray technician, or a substantially similar position;

22 \* **Sec. 26.** AS 11.81.430(a) is amended to read:

23 (a) The use of force **on** [UPON] another person that would otherwise  
 24 constitute an offense is justified under any of the following circumstances:

25 (1) When and to the extent reasonably necessary and appropriate to  
 26 promote the welfare of the child or incompetent person, a parent, guardian, or other  
 27 person entrusted with the care and supervision of a child under 18 years of age or an  
 28 incompetent person may use reasonable and appropriate nondeadly force **on** [UPON]  
 29 that child or incompetent person.

30 (2) When and to the extent reasonably necessary and appropriate to  
 31 maintain order and when the use of force is consistent with the welfare of the students,

1 a teacher may, if authorized by school regulations and the principal of the school, use  
2 reasonable and appropriate nondeadly force **on** [UPON] a student. If authorized by  
3 school regulations and the principal of the school, a teacher may use nondeadly force  
4 under this paragraph in any situation in which the teacher is responsible for the  
5 supervision of students. A teacher employed by a school board, including a regional  
6 educational attendance area school board, may use nondeadly force under this  
7 paragraph only if the school regulations authorizing the use of force have been  
8 adopted by the school board.

9 (3) When and to the extent reasonably necessary and appropriate to  
10 maintain order, a person responsible for the maintenance of order in a common carrier  
11 of passengers, or a person acting under that person's direction, may use reasonable and  
12 appropriate nondeadly force.

13 (4) When and to the extent reasonably necessary to prevent a suicide, a  
14 person who reasonably believes that another is imminently about to commit suicide  
15 may use reasonable and appropriate nondeadly force **on** [UPON] that person.

16 (5) A licensed physician, licensed mobile intensive care paramedic, or  
17 registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse; or a person acting under the  
18 direction of a licensed physician, licensed mobile intensive care paramedic, or  
19 registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse; or any person who renders  
20 emergency care at the scene of an emergency, may use reasonable and appropriate  
21 nondeadly force for the purpose of administering a recognized and lawful form of  
22 treatment that is reasonably adapted to promoting the physical or mental health of the  
23 patient if

24 (A) the treatment is administered with the consent of the patient  
25 or, if the patient is a child under 18 years of age or an incompetent person, with  
26 the consent of the parent, guardian, or other person entrusted with care and  
27 supervision of the child or incompetent person; or

28 (B) the treatment is administered in an emergency if the person  
29 administering the treatment reasonably believes that no one competent to  
30 consent can be consulted under the circumstances and that a reasonable person,  
31 wishing to safeguard the welfare of the patient, would consent.

1 \* **Sec. 27.** AS 12.55.135(k)(3) is amended to read:

2 (3) "medical professional" means a person who is an anesthesiologist,  
3 dentist, dental hygienist, health aide, nurse, nurse aid, **advanced practice registered**  
4 nurse [PRACTITIONER], mental health counselor, physician, physician assistant,  
5 chiropractor, psychiatrist, osteopath, psychologist, psychological associate,  
6 radiologist, surgeon, or x-ray technician, or who holds a substantially similar position.

7 \* **Sec. 28.** AS 14.30.141(e) is amended to read:

8 (e) In this section, "health care provider" means a licensed physician,  
9 advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], physician assistant, village  
10 health aide, or pharmacist operating within the scope of the health care provider's  
11 authority.

12 \* **Sec. 29.** AS 18.08.086(c) is amended to read:

13 (c) A registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse or licensed practical  
14 nurse who escorts a patient in a means of conveyance not equipped as an ambulance is  
15 not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission in administering patient  
16 care services, if done in good faith and if the life of the injured or sick person is in  
17 danger. This subsection does not preclude liability for civil damages that are the result  
18 of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

19 \* **Sec. 30.** AS 18.08.087 is amended to read:

20 **Sec. 18.08.087. Disclosure of medical records.** When requested for the  
21 purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician, mobile  
22 intensive care paramedic, or physician who provided emergency medical care or other  
23 assistance to a sick or injured person, a licensed physician, advanced **practice**  
24 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], or physician assistant may disclose to an  
25 emergency medical technician, a mobile intensive care paramedic, or physician the  
26 medical or hospital records of a sick or injured person to whom the paramedic,  
27 technician, or physician is providing or has rendered emergency medical care or  
28 assistance. However, the disclosing physician, **advanced practice registered** nurse  
29 [PRACTITIONER], or physician assistant shall limit disclosure under this section to  
30 the records that are considered necessary by the discloser for evaluation of the  
31 paramedic's, technician's, or physician's performance in providing the emergency

1 medical care or assistance. A mobile intensive care paramedic, emergency medical  
 2 care technician, or physician to whom confidential records are disclosed under this  
 3 section may not further disclose the information to a person not entitled to receive that  
 4 information under this section or another law.

5 \* **Sec. 31.** AS 18.15.310(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) The withdrawal of blood for a test under AS 18.15.300 - 18.15.320 shall be  
 7 performed in a medically approved manner. Only a physician or physician assistant  
 8 licensed under AS 08.64, registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse, licensed  
 9 practical nurse, or certified emergency medical technician may withdraw blood  
 10 specimens for the purposes of AS 18.15.300 - 18.15.320.

11 \* **Sec. 32.** AS 18.15.395(11) is amended to read:

12 (11) "health care practitioner" means a physician, **advanced practice**  
 13 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], or physician assistant **licensed or otherwise**  
 14 authorized to practice their respective professions in this state;

15 \* **Sec. 33.** AS 18.29.099(7) is amended to read:

16 (7) "tier II health care professional" means a person licensed or exempt  
 17 from licensure in the state as a dental hygienist, registered nurse, advanced **practice**  
 18 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], physician assistant, physical therapist, clinical  
 19 psychologist, or clinical social worker holding at least a master's degree in social  
 20 work.

21 \* **Sec. 34.** AS 18.50.165(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) The registrar shall distribute copies of the form prepared under (a) of this  
 23 section to each hospital in the state, to each physician in the state whose practice  
 24 includes attendance at births, to each **certified nurse midwife** [NURSE-MIDWIFE]  
 25 and **certified** direct-entry midwife in the state, and to each other interested person in  
 26 the state who requests copies of the form.

27 \* **Sec. 35.** AS 21.36.090(d) is amended to read:

28 (d) Except to the extent necessary to comply with AS 21.42.365 and  
 29 AS 21.56, a person may not practice or permit unfair discrimination against a person  
 30 who provides a service covered under a group health insurance policy that extends  
 31 coverage on an expense incurred basis, or under a group service or indemnity type

1 contract issued by a health maintenance organization or a nonprofit corporation, if the  
 2 service is within the scope of the provider's occupational license. In this subsection,  
 3 "provider" means a state licensed physician, physician assistant, dentist, osteopath,  
 4 optometrist, chiropractor, [NURSE MIDWIFE,] advanced **practice registered** nurse  
 5 [PRACTITIONER], naturopath, physical therapist, occupational therapist, marital and  
 6 family therapist, psychologist, psychological associate, licensed clinical social worker,  
 7 licensed professional counselor, or certified direct-entry midwife.

8 \* **Sec. 36.** AS 21.42.355 is amended to read:

9 **Sec. 21.42.355. Coverage for cost of services provided by certified nurse**  
 10 **midwives.** (a) If a health care insurance plan or an excepted benefits policy or contract  
 11 provides indemnity for the cost of services of a physician provided to women during  
 12 pregnancy, childbirth, and the period after childbirth, indemnity in a reasonable  
 13 amount shall also be provided for the cost of an advanced **practice registered** nurse  
 14 [PRACTITIONER] who provides the same services. Indemnity may be provided  
 15 under this subsection only if the advanced **practice registered** nurse **is practicing**  
 16 [PRACTITIONER IS CERTIFIED TO PRACTICE] as a **certified** nurse midwife in  
 17 accordance with regulations adopted under AS 08.68.100(a), and the services provided  
 18 are within the scope of practice **of** [AUTHORIZED BY] that certification.

19 (b) If a health care insurance plan or an excepted benefits policy or contract  
 20 provides for furnishing those services required of a physician in the care of women  
 21 during pregnancy, childbirth, and the period after childbirth, the contract shall also  
 22 provide that an advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] may furnish  
 23 those same services instead of a physician. Services may be provided under this  
 24 subsection only if the advanced **practice registered** nurse **is practicing**  
 25 [PRACTITIONER IS CERTIFIED TO PRACTICE] as a **certified** nurse midwife in  
 26 accordance with regulations adopted under AS 08.68.100(a), and the services provided  
 27 are within the scope of practice **of** [AUTHORIZED BY] that certification.

28 \* **Sec. 37.** AS 21.42.397(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) Except for a fraternal benefit society, a health care insurer that offers,  
 30 issues for delivery, delivers, or renews a health care insurance plan in this state shall  
 31 provide coverage for the costs of the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum

1 disorders. Coverage required by this subsection must include treatment prescribed by a  
 2 licensed physician, psychologist, or advanced **practice registered** nurse  
 3 [PRACTITIONER], provided by or supervised by an autism service provider, and as  
 4 identified in a treatment plan developed following a comprehensive evaluation.  
 5 Covered treatment includes medically necessary pharmacy care, psychiatric care,  
 6 psychological care, habilitative or rehabilitative care, and therapeutic care. In this  
 7 subsection,

8 (1) "habilitative or rehabilitative care" means professional counseling,  
 9 guidance services, and treatment programs necessary to develop, restore, or maintain  
 10 the functioning of an individual to the maximum extent practicable, including applied  
 11 behavior analysis or other structured behavioral therapies; in this paragraph, "applied  
 12 behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental  
 13 modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, including direct  
 14 observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between  
 15 environment and behavior, to produce socially significant improvement in human  
 16 behavior or to prevent the loss of an attained skill or function;

17 (2) "therapeutic care" means services provided by or under the  
 18 supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under AS 08.11 or an  
 19 occupational therapist or physical therapist licensed under AS 08.84.

20 \* **Sec. 38.** AS 21.42.397(g)(5) is amended to read:

21 (5) "medically necessary" means any care, treatment, intervention,  
 22 service, or item prescribed by a licensed physician, psychologist, or advanced **practice**  
 23 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] in accordance with accepted standards of  
 24 practice that will, or is reasonably expected to,

25 (A) prevent the onset of an illness, condition, injury, or  
 26 disability;

27 (B) reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental, or developmental  
 28 effects of an illness, condition, injury, or disability;

29 (C) assist to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity  
 30 in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity  
 31 of the individual and the functional capacity of other persons of the individual's

1 age.

2 \* **Sec. 39.** AS 21.55.500(12) is amended to read:

3 (12) "home health agency services" means any of the following  
4 services provided upon recommendation of a licensed physician as part of a treatment  
5 plan:

6 (A) intermittent or part-time nursing services of a registered  
7 [PROFESSIONAL] nurse or a licensed practical nurse, that are provided to a  
8 person under the continued direction of the person's physician and within the  
9 limitation of the nurse's license;

10 (B) nursing services that are provided to a person at the  
11 person's residence, including a residential care facility or adult boarding home;  
12 a hospital, skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility is not considered  
13 a residence;

14 (C) home health aide services that are prescribed by and under  
15 the continued direction of a physician and supervised by a **registered**  
16 [PROFESSIONAL] nurse;

17 (D) home health aide services that are provided to a person at  
18 the person's residence, as described in (B) of this paragraph;

19 (E) physical and occupational therapy services, speech  
20 pathology, and audiology services that are prescribed by a physician and  
21 provided to a person by or under the supervision of a qualified practitioner;  
22 these services may be provided to a person who is a patient in an intermediate  
23 care facility or skilled nursing facility;

24 \* **Sec. 40.** AS 21.87.330(8) is amended to read:

25 (8) "provider" means a physician, dentist, osteopath, optometrist,  
26 chiropractor, **certified** nurse midwife, or other licensed health care practitioner;

27 \* **Sec. 41.** AS 23.30.395(3) is amended to read:

28 (3) "attending physician" means one of the following designated by the  
29 employee under AS 23.30.095(a) or (b):

30 (A) a licensed medical doctor;

31 (B) a licensed doctor of osteopathy;

1 (C) a licensed dentist or dental surgeon;

2 (D) a licensed physician assistant acting under supervision of a  
3 licensed medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy;

4 (E) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse  
5 [PRACTITIONER]; or

6 (F) a licensed chiropractor;

7 \* **Sec. 42.** AS 25.20.055(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) When a birth occurs to an unmarried woman in a hospital or en route to a  
9 hospital to which the woman is later admitted, the hospital shall ensure that a staff  
10 member

11 (1) meets with the woman before release from the hospital;

12 (2) attempts to meet with the father of the unmarried woman's child, if  
13 possible;

14 (3) presents to the mother and, if possible, the father, a pamphlet or  
15 statement regarding the rights and responsibilities of a natural parent; the Department  
16 of Health and Social Services shall prepare this pamphlet and distribute copies of it to  
17 each hospital in the state, to each physician in the state whose practice includes  
18 attendance at births, to each certified nurse midwife [NURSE-MIDWIFE] and  
19 certified direct-entry midwife in the state, and to other interested persons in the state  
20 who request copies;

21 (4) provides to the mother and, if possible, the father, all forms,  
22 statements, or agreements necessary to voluntarily establish a parent and child  
23 relationship, including an acknowledgment [ACKNOWLEDGEMENT] of paternity  
24 form prepared under AS 18.50.165;

25 (5) on request of the mother and father, assists the father in completing  
26 specific forms, statements, or agreements necessary to establish a parent and child  
27 relationship between the father and the child; and

28 (6) on request of the mother and father, mails a completed voluntary  
29 acknowledgment [ACKNOWLEDGEMENT] of paternity form to the state registrar  
30 for filing under AS 18.50.165.

31 \* **Sec. 43.** AS 25.20.055(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) When a birth occurs to an unmarried woman who is not in a hospital for  
2 the birth nor admitted to a hospital immediately after the birth, and the birth is  
3 attended by a physician, certified nurse midwife [NURSE-MIDWIFE], or certified  
4 direct-entry midwife, the physician, certified nurse midwife [NURSE-MIDWIFE], or  
5 certified direct-entry midwife shall perform the duties described in (a)(2) - (6) of this  
6 section or ensure that an agent performs those duties.

7 \* **Sec. 44.** AS 28.10.181(d) is amended to read:

8 (d) Vehicles owned by veterans with disabilities, including persons disabled in  
9 the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard, or other persons with  
10 disabilities. Upon the request of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the  
11 ability to walk, as defined in 23 C.F.R. 1235.2, the department shall (1) register one  
12 motor vehicle in the name of the person without charge; and (2) issue a specially  
13 designed registration plate that displays (A) recognition of the disabled veteran if the  
14 applicant's disability originated from the applicant's service with the Alaska Territorial  
15 Guard or the armed forces of the United States; (B) the international symbol of  
16 accessibility (the wheelchair logo); and (C) if the applicant is a veteran, the Alaska and  
17 United States flags and red, white, and blue colors. A person who is not otherwise  
18 qualified under this subsection, but who meets the qualifications of a disabled veteran  
19 under AS 29.45.030(i), may register one motor vehicle without charge, and the  
20 department shall issue a specially designed registration plate that displays recognition  
21 of the disabled veteran that does not display the international symbol of accessibility  
22 and does not carry with it special parking privileges. A disabled veteran who  
23 otherwise qualifies for a registration plate under this subsection may elect to receive a  
24 plate under (p) or (q) of this section for which the person is otherwise qualified that  
25 does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it  
26 special parking privileges. A disabled person who otherwise qualifies for a registration  
27 plate under (2)(B) of this subsection may elect to receive a plate under another  
28 provision of this section for which the person is otherwise qualified that does not  
29 display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it special  
30 parking privileges. For purposes of this subsection, proof of disability may be  
31 provided by a person licensed as a physician or physician assistant under AS 08.64 or

1 as an advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] under AS 08.68.

2 \* **Sec. 45.** AS 28.33.033(d) is amended to read:

3 (d) The person tested may have a physician, or a qualified technician, chemist,  
4 registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse, or other qualified person of the  
5 person's own choosing administer a chemical test in addition to the test administered  
6 at the direction of a law enforcement officer. The failure or inability to obtain an  
7 additional test by a person does not preclude the admission of evidence relating to the  
8 test taken at the direction of a law enforcement officer; the fact that the person under  
9 arrest sought to obtain [SUCH] an additional test, and failed or was unable to do so, is  
10 likewise admissible in evidence.

11 \* **Sec. 46.** AS 28.35.033(e) is amended to read:

12 (e) The person tested may have a physician, or a qualified technician, chemist,  
13 registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse, or other qualified person of the  
14 person's own choosing administer a chemical test in addition to the test administered  
15 at the direction of a law enforcement officer. The failure or inability to obtain an  
16 additional test by a person does not preclude the admission of evidence relating to the  
17 test taken at the direction of a law enforcement officer; the fact that the person under  
18 arrest sought to obtain such an additional test, and failed or was unable [SO] to do **so**,  
19 is likewise admissible in evidence. The person who administers the chemical test shall  
20 clearly and expressly inform the person tested of that person's right to an independent  
21 test described under this subsection, and, if the person being tested requests an  
22 independent test, the department shall make reasonable and good-faith efforts to assist  
23 the person being tested in contacting a person qualified to perform an independent  
24 chemical test of the person's breath or blood.

25 \* **Sec. 47.** AS 33.30.901(10) is amended to read:

26 (10) "health care provider" means

27 (A) a physician assistant [OR NURSE PRACTITIONER]  
28 licensed to practice in the state and working under the direct supervision of a  
29 licensed physician or psychiatrist; [OR]

30 (B) a mental health professional as defined in AS 47.30.915; **or**

31 **(C) an advanced practice registered nurse as defined in**

**AS 08.68.850;**

1  
2 \* **Sec. 48.** AS 47.07.030(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) In addition to the mandatory services specified in (a) of this section and the  
4 services provided under (d) of this section, the department may offer only the  
5 following optional services: case management services for traumatic or acquired brain  
6 injury; case management and nutrition services for pregnant women; personal care  
7 services in a recipient's home; emergency hospital services; long-term care  
8 noninstitutional services; medical supplies and equipment; advanced **practice**  
9 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] services; clinic services; rehabilitative services  
10 for children eligible for services under AS 47.07.063, substance abusers, and  
11 emotionally disturbed or chronically mentally ill adults; targeted case management  
12 services; inpatient psychiatric facility services for individuals 65 years of age or older  
13 and individuals under 21 years of age; psychologists' services; clinical social workers'  
14 services; midwife services; prescribed drugs; physical therapy; occupational therapy;  
15 chiropractic services; low-dose mammography screening, as defined in  
16 AS 21.42.375(e); hospice care; treatment of speech, hearing, and language disorders;  
17 adult dental services; prosthetic devices and eyeglasses; optometrists' services;  
18 intermediate care facility services, including intermediate care facility services for  
19 persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; skilled nursing facility  
20 services for individuals under 21 years of age; and reasonable transportation to and  
21 from the point of medical care.

22 \* **Sec. 49.** AS 47.07.045(b) is amended to read:

23 (b) Before the department may terminate payment for services provided under  
24 (a) of this section,

25 (1) the recipient must have had an annual assessment to determine  
26 whether the recipient continues to meet the standards under (a) of this section;

27 (2) the annual assessment must have been reviewed by an independent  
28 qualified health care professional under contract with the department; for purposes of  
29 this paragraph, "independent qualified health care professional" means,

30 (A) for a waiver based on intellectual or developmental  
31 disability, a person who is qualified under 42 CFR 483.430 as a qualified

1 intellectual disability professional;

2 (B) for other allowable waivers, a registered **or advanced**  
 3 **practice registered** nurse licensed under AS 08.68 who is qualified to assess  
 4 children with complex medical conditions, older Alaskans, and adults with  
 5 physical disabilities for medical assistance waivers; and

6 (3) the annual assessment must find that the recipient's condition has  
 7 materially improved since the previous assessment; for purposes of this paragraph,  
 8 "materially improved" means that a recipient who has previously qualified for a  
 9 waiver for

10 (A) a child with complex medical conditions, no longer needs  
 11 technical assistance for a life-threatening condition, and is expected to be  
 12 placed in a skilled nursing facility for less than 30 days each year;

13 (B) intellectual or developmental disability, no longer needs the  
 14 level of care provided by an intermediate care facility for persons with  
 15 intellectual and developmental disabilities either because the qualifying  
 16 diagnosis has changed or the recipient is able to demonstrate the ability to  
 17 function in a home setting without the need for waiver services; or

18 (C) an older Alaskan or adult with a physical disability, no  
 19 longer has a functional limitation or cognitive impairment that would result in  
 20 the need for nursing home placement, and is able to demonstrate the ability to  
 21 function in a home setting without the need for waiver services.

22 \* **Sec. 50.** AS 47.07.900(2) is amended to read:

23 (2) "advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] services"  
 24 means services furnished by a person who is **licensed** [CERTIFIED] as an advanced  
 25 **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] under AS 08.68.850 that are within the  
 26 scope of **regulations adopted under AS 08.68.100(a)** [THE PERSON'S CERTIFIED  
 27 AUTHORITY], whether or not the person is under the supervision of, or associated  
 28 with, a physician or other health care provider;

29 \* **Sec. 51.** AS 47.20.320(d) is amended to read:

30 (d) A hospital or other health facility, clinical laboratory, audiologist,  
 31 physician, registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse, certified [NURSE

1 MIDWIFE,] direct-entry midwife, officer or employee of a health facility or clinical  
 2 laboratory, or an employee of an audiologist, physician, or registered **or advanced**  
 3 **practice registered** nurse is not criminally or civilly liable for furnishing information  
 4 in good faith to the department or its designee under this section. The furnishing of  
 5 information in accordance with this section is not a violation of AS 08 or AS 18 or  
 6 regulations adopted under AS 08 or AS 18 for licensees under those statutes.

7 \* **Sec. 52.** AS 47.30.838(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) Except as provided in (c) and (d) of this section, an evaluation facility or  
 9 designated treatment facility may administer psychotropic medication to a patient  
 10 without the patient's informed consent, regardless of whether the patient is capable of  
 11 giving informed consent, only if

12 (1) there is a crisis situation, or an impending crisis situation, that  
 13 requires immediate use of the medication to preserve the life of, or prevent significant  
 14 physical harm to, the patient or another person, as determined by a licensed physician  
 15 or a registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse; the behavior or condition of  
 16 the patient giving rise to a crisis under this paragraph and the staff's response to the  
 17 behavior or condition must be documented in the patient's medical record; the  
 18 documentation must include an explanation of alternative responses to the crisis that  
 19 were considered or attempted by the staff and why those responses were not sufficient;  
 20 and

21 (2) the medication is ordered by a licensed physician; the order

22 (A) may be written or oral and may be received by telephone,  
 23 facsimile machine, or in person;

24 (B) may include an initial dosage and may authorize additional,  
 25 as needed, doses; if additional, as needed, doses are authorized, the order must  
 26 specify the medication, the quantity of each authorized dose, the method of  
 27 administering the medication, the maximum frequency of administration, the  
 28 specific conditions under which the medication may be given, and the  
 29 maximum amount of medication that may be administered to the patient in a  
 30 24-hour period;

31 (C) is valid for only 24 hours and may be renewed by a

1 physician for a total of 72 hours, including the initial 24 hours, only after a  
 2 personal assessment of the patient's status and a determination that there is still  
 3 a crisis situation as described in (1) of this subsection; upon renewal of an  
 4 order under this subparagraph, the facts supporting the renewal shall be written  
 5 into the patient's medical record.

6 \* **Sec. 53.** AS 47.30.915(13) is amended to read:

7 (13) "mental health professional" means a psychiatrist or physician  
 8 who is licensed by the State Medical Board to practice in this state or is employed by  
 9 the federal government; a clinical psychologist licensed by the state Board of  
 10 Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners; a psychological associate  
 11 trained in clinical psychology and licensed by the Board of Psychologist and  
 12 Psychological Associate Examiners; an advanced practice registered nurse or a  
 13 registered nurse with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing, licensed by the State  
 14 Board of Nursing; a marital and family therapist licensed by the Board of Marital and  
 15 Family Therapy; a professional counselor licensed by the Board of Professional  
 16 Counselors; a clinical social worker licensed by the Board of Social Work Examiners;  
 17 and a person who

18 (A) has a master's degree in the field of mental health;

19 (B) has at least 12 months of post-masters working experience  
 20 in the field of mental illness; and

21 (C) is working under the supervision of a type of licensee listed  
 22 in this paragraph;

23 \* **Sec. 54.** AS 47.33.020(h) is amended to read:

24 (h) If a resident has received 24-hour skilled nursing care for the 45-day limit  
 25 set by (g) of this section, the resident or the resident's representative may elect to have  
 26 the resident remain in the home without continuation of 24-hour skilled nursing care if  
 27 the home agrees to retain the resident after

28 (1) the home and either the resident or the resident's representative  
 29 have consulted with the resident's physician;

30 (2) the home and either the resident or the resident's representative  
 31 have discussed the consequences and risks involved in the election to remain in the

1 home; and

2 (3) the portion of the resident's assisted living plan that relates to  
3 health-related services has been revised to provide for the resident's health-related  
4 needs without the use of 24-hour skilled nursing care, and the revised plan has been  
5 reviewed by a registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse licensed under  
6 AS 08.68 or by the resident's attending physician.

7 \* **Sec. 55.** AS 47.33.230(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) If the assisted living home provides or arranges for the provision of health-  
9 related services to a resident, the home shall ensure that a

10 (1) registered **or advanced practice registered** nurse licensed under  
11 AS 08.68 reviews the portion of an assisted living plan that describes how the  
12 resident's need for health-related services will be met; and

13 (2) physician's statement about the resident is included in the plan.

14 \* **Sec. 56.** AS 47.37.180(b) is amended to read:

15 (b) The certifying physician, physician assistant, advanced **practice**  
16 **registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER], spouse, guardian, or relative of the person to be  
17 committed, or any other responsible person, may make a written application for  
18 commitment under this section, directed to the administrator of the approved public  
19 treatment facility. The application must state facts to support the need for emergency  
20 treatment and be accompanied by a physician's, physician assistant's, or advanced  
21 **practice registered nurse's** [NURSE PRACTITIONER'S] certificate supporting the  
22 need for emergency treatment and stating that the physician, physician assistant, or  
23 advanced **practice registered** nurse [PRACTITIONER] has examined the person  
24 sought to be committed within two days before the certificate's date.

25 \* **Sec. 57.** AS 47.37.180(f) is amended to read:

26 (f) A copy of the written application for commitment and of the physician's,  
27 physician assistant's, or advanced **practice registered nurse's** [NURSE  
28 PRACTITIONER'S] certificate, and a written explanation of the person's right to legal  
29 counsel, shall be given to the person within 24 hours after commitment by the  
30 administrator, who shall provide a reasonable opportunity for the person to consult  
31 with legal counsel.

1 \* **Sec. 58.** AS 47.37.190(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) A spouse or guardian, a relative, the certifying physician, physician  
3 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse [PRACTITIONER], or the  
4 administrator in charge of an approved public treatment facility may petition the court  
5 for a 30-day involuntary commitment order. The petition must allege that the person is  
6 an alcoholic or drug abuser who (1) has threatened, attempted to inflict, or inflicted  
7 physical harm on another and that unless committed is likely to inflict physical harm  
8 on another; or (2) is incapacitated by alcohol or drugs. A refusal to undergo treatment  
9 does not constitute evidence of lack of judgment as to the need for treatment. The  
10 petition must be accompanied by a certificate of a licensed physician, physician  
11 assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse [PRACTITIONER] who has  
12 examined the person within two days before submission of the petition, unless the  
13 person whose commitment is sought has refused to submit to a medical examination,  
14 in which case the fact of refusal must be alleged in the petition. The certificate must  
15 set out the physician's, physician assistant's, or advanced practice registered nurse's  
16 [NURSE PRACTITIONER'S] findings of the examination in support of the  
17 allegations of the petition.

18 \* **Sec. 59.** AS 47.37.200(a) is amended to read:

19 (a) At the hearing for a 30-day commitment required under AS 47.37.190(b),  
20 the court shall hear all relevant testimony, including, if possible, the testimony of at  
21 least one person who has examined the person whose commitment is sought under  
22 AS 47.37.180(b) or 47.37.190(a). The person whose commitment is sought shall be  
23 present unless the court believes that being present is likely to be injurious to the  
24 person, in which case the court may conduct the hearing telephonically. The court may  
25 examine the person in open court, or, if advisable, examine the person out of court. If  
26 the person has refused to be examined under AS 47.37.180(b) or 47.37.190(a), the  
27 person shall be given an opportunity to request examination by a court-appointed  
28 licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse  
29 [PRACTITIONER]. If the person fails to request a medical examination and there is  
30 sufficient evidence to believe that the allegations of the petition are true, or, if the  
31 court believes that more medical evidence is necessary, the court may issue a

1           temporary order committing the person to a private or public facility for a period of  
2           not more than five days for purposes of a diagnostic examination.

3       \* **Sec. 60.** AS 08.68.850(7); AS 21.87.330(4); and AS 47.07.900(14) are repealed.

4       \* **Sec. 61.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2016.