

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

May 8, 2024

3:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Jesse Sumner, Chair
Representative Justin Ruffridge, Vice Chair
Representative Stanley Wright
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Zack Fields

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Supporting trade policies for the United States that hold China, Russia, and other countries accountable, reward leadership in clean production standards, reward superior environmental performance, support economic development, and support the rebuilding of supply chains in the United States.

- MOVED HJR 27 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 182

"An Act extending the termination date of the Big Game Commercial Services Board; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 182 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 239

"An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and relating to workforce housing development projects."

- MOVED HCS SB 239(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 234

"An Act relating to the Marijuana Control Board; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 234 OUT OF COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 115(HSS) AM

"An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to physicians; and relating to health care insurance policies."

- MOVED HCS CSSB 115(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 336

"An Act relating to athletic trainers; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING RESCHEDULED TO 5/10/24

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HJR 27

SHORT TITLE: SUPPORTING CERTAIN US TRADE POLICIES

SPONSOR(S): LABOR & COMMERCE

04/11/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/11/24	(H)	L&C, RES
04/15/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/15/24	(H)	Scheduled but Not Heard
04/17/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/17/24	(H)	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 04/22/24>
04/22/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/22/24	(H)	Scheduled but Not Heard
04/24/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/24/24	(H)	Scheduled but Not Heard
04/29/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/29/24	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
05/01/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
05/01/24	(H)	Scheduled but Not Heard
05/06/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
05/06/24	(H)	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 05/08/24>
05/08/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: SB 182

SHORT TITLE: EXTEND BIG GAME COMM SERVICES BOARD

SPONSOR(S): LABOR & COMMERCE

01/16/24	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/24	(S)	L&C, FIN
01/22/24	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
01/22/24	(S)	Heard & Held
01/22/24	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)

01/29/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
 01/29/24 (S) Moved SB 182 Out of Committee
 01/29/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
 01/31/24 (S) L&C RPT 3DP 1AM
 01/31/24 (S) DP: BJORKMAN, DUNBAR, MERRICK
 01/31/24 (S) AM: GRAY-JACKSON
 04/09/24 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
 04/09/24 (S) Heard & Held
 04/09/24 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
 04/22/24 (S) FIN AT 1:30 PM SENATE FINANCE 532
 04/22/24 (S) Moved SB 182 Out of Committee
 04/22/24 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
 04/24/24 (S) FIN RPT 4DP
 04/24/24 (S) DP: OLSON, WILSON, KIEHL, MERRICK
 04/29/24 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
 04/29/24 (S) VERSION: SB 182
 05/01/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 05/01/24 (H) L&C, FIN
 05/06/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
 05/06/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 05/08/24>
 05/08/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: SB 239

SHORT TITLE: AIDEA WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SPONSOR(s): DUNBAR

02/19/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 02/19/24 (S) L&C, FIN
 02/21/24 (S) FIN REFERRAL REMOVED
 03/27/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
 03/27/24 (S) Heard & Held
 03/27/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
 04/12/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
 04/12/24 (S) Moved SB 239 Out of Committee
 04/12/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
 04/15/24 (S) L&C RPT 2DP 2NR
 04/15/24 (S) NR: BJORKMAN, MERRICK
 04/15/24 (S) DP: GRAY-JACKSON, DUNBAR
 04/22/24 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
 04/22/24 (S) VERSION: SB 239
 04/24/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 04/24/24 (H) L&C
 04/29/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
 04/29/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
 05/01/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
 05/01/24 (H) Heard & Held
 05/01/24 (H) MINUTE(L&C)

05/08/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: SB 234

SHORT TITLE: EXTEND MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD

SPONSOR(s): LABOR & COMMERCE

02/15/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/15/24 (S) L&C, FIN
03/08/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/08/24 (S) Heard & Held
03/08/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
03/13/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/13/24 (S) Moved SB 234 Out of Committee
03/13/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
03/15/24 (S) L&C RPT 3DP
03/15/24 (S) DP: BJORKMAN, DUNBAR, GRAY-JACKSON
04/03/24 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/03/24 (S) Heard & Held
04/03/24 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
04/04/24 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/04/24 (S) Heard & Held
04/04/24 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
04/22/24 (S) FIN AT 1:30 PM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/22/24 (S) Moved SB 234 Out of Committee
04/22/24 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
04/24/24 (S) FIN RPT 4DP
04/24/24 (S) DP: OLSON, WILSON, KIEHL, MERRICK
04/29/24 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
04/29/24 (S) VERSION: SB 234
05/01/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/01/24 (H) L&C, FIN
05/06/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
05/06/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 05/08/24>
05/08/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: SB 115

SHORT TITLE: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SPONSOR(s): TOBIN BY REQUEST

03/27/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/27/23 (S) HSS, L&C
01/23/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
01/23/24 (S) Heard & Held
01/23/24 (S) MINUTE(HSS)
02/06/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/06/24 (S) Heard & Held
02/06/24 (S) MINUTE(HSS)

02/15/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
 02/15/24 (S) Moved CSSB 115(HSS) Out of Committee
 02/15/24 (S) MINUTE(HSS)
 02/19/24 (S) HSS RPT CS 3DP 2AM SAME TITLE
 02/19/24 (S) DP: WILSON, KAUFMAN, DUNBAR
 02/19/24 (S) AM: TOBIN, GIESSEL
 02/28/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
 02/28/24 (S) Heard & Held
 02/28/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
 04/05/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
 04/05/24 (S) Moved CSSB 115(HSS) Out of Committee
 04/05/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
 04/08/24 (S) L&C RPT CS(HSS) 2DP 1NR 1AM
 04/08/24 (S) AM: BJORKMAN
 04/08/24 (S) DP: DUNBAR, BISHOP
 04/08/24 (S) NR: MERRICK
 04/24/24 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
 04/24/24 (S) VERSION: CSSB 115(HSS) AM
 04/26/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 04/26/24 (H) HSS, L&C
 05/02/24 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106
 05/02/24 (H) Moved CSSB 115(HSS) AM Out of Committee
 05/02/24 (H) MINUTE(HSS)
 05/03/24 (H) HSS RPT 5NR 1AM
 05/03/24 (H) NR: RUFFRIDGE, MCCORMICK, MINA,
 SADDLER, PRAX
 05/03/24 (H) AM: SUMNER
 05/06/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
 05/06/24 (H) Heard & Held
 05/06/24 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
 05/08/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

TREVOR JEPSEN, Staff
 Representative Tom McKay
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on SB 239.

BRANDON BREFCVYNSKI, Deputy Director
 Alaska Industrial Development and Expert Authority
 Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on SB 239.

JAMES HOLZENBERG, Staff
Senator Forrest Dunbar
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on SB 239 on behalf of Senator Dunbar, prime sponsor.

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented SB 182.

AARON BLOOMQUIST, Chair
Big Game Commercial Services Board
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony during the hearing on SB 182.

JOAN WILSON, Director
Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony during the hearing on SB 234.

SENATOR LÖKI TOBIN
Alaska State Senator
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, answered questions during the hearing on SB 115.

JENNIFER FAYETTE, PA
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on SB 115.

KRISTIN MITCHELL, MD, President
Alaska State Medical Association
Soldotna, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on SB 115.

ROXANNE JONES, MD, Secretary of the Board
Alaska Academy of Family Physicians
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on SB 115.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:46:11 PM](#)

CHAIR JESSE SUMNER called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. Representatives Prax, Carrick, Fields, Ruffridge, and Sumner were present at the call to order. Representatives Wright and Saddler arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HJR 27-SUPPORTING CERTAIN US TRADE POLICIES

[3:47:08 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27, Supporting trade policies for the United States that hold China, Russia, and other countries accountable, reward leadership in clean production standards, reward superior environmental performance, support economic development, and support the rebuilding of supply chains in the United States.

[3:47:18 PM](#)

The committee took at at-ease from 3:47 p.m. to 3:48 p.m.

[3:48:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HJR 27 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being objection, HJR 27 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

SB 182-EXTEND BIG GAME COMM SERVICES BOARD

[3:49:04 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 182, "An Act extending the termination date of the Big Game Commercial Services Board; and providing for an effective date."

[3:49:14 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 3:49 p.m.

CHAIR SUMNER stated that the bill sponsor for SB 182 was currently unavailable; [therefore, the committee moved on to the next order of business].

SB 239-AIDEA WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

[3:49:36 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 239, "An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and relating to workforce housing development projects."

[3:49:53 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Amendment 1 to SB 239, labeled 33-LS1072\S.6, Walsh, 5/6/24, which read:

Page 1, line 1, following "**Authority**":

Insert "**relating to state loans for oil and gas development projects in the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin**;"

Page 1, following line 3:

Insert new bill sections to read:

"* Section. 1. AS 42.05.141 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) The commission shall, as required under AS 44.88.850(b), determine whether the sale price in a gas sales agreement for gas produced through a project partially or fully funded by a loan under AS 44.88.850 constitutes a just and reasonable immediate delivery price for gas.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 44.25.020 is amended to read:

Sec. 44.25.020. Duties of department. The Department of Revenue shall

- (1) enforce the tax laws of the state;
- (2) collect, account for, have custody of, invest, and manage all state funds and all revenues of the state except revenues incidental to a program of licensing and regulation carried on by another state department, funds managed and invested by the Alaska Retirement Management Board, and as otherwise provided by law;
- (3) invest and manage the balance of the power development fund in accordance with AS 44.83.386;

(4) administer the surety bond program for licensure as a fish processor or primary fish buyer;

(5) provide reasonable assistance to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority under AS 44.88.850(c).

* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.37.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide reasonable assistance to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority under AS 44.88.850(c)."

Page 1, line 4:

Delete "**Section 1**"

Insert "**Sec. 4**"

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 5, following line 20:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* **Sec. 6.** AS 44.88 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 10A. Cook Inlet Reserve-Based Lending.

Sec. 44.88.850. Cook Inlet reserve-based lending account. (a) The Cook Inlet reserve-based lending account is established in the revolving fund. The account consists of money or assets deposited into the account by the authority and contributions from other sources.

(b) The authority may use money in the account to make one or more reserve-based loans to fund oil and gas development projects the authority considers necessary to increase oil and gas production from the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin. The authority may, as a term of the loan, accept an ownership share in the project funded by the loan. If the authority accepts an ownership share as a term of the loan, the ownership share must be in the form of a carried interest that does not obligate the authority to contribute to the development costs of the project. The authority may make a loan under this section only

(1) to a legal entity in compliance with state and federal laws;

(2) if the loan applicant provides a written waiver permitting the authority to access or obtain copies of the loan applicant's confidential records that are in possession of the Department of

Natural Resources or the Department of Revenue; information provided to the authority under this section shall be kept confidential by the authority unless disclosure is authorized by the loan applicant or borrower;

(3) if the authority obtains an independent study performed by an experienced, qualified expert that confirms the valuation of the loan security and the capacity of the loan to support the oil and gas development project and to cause or increase the commercial production of oil or gas from the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin;

(4) if the Regulatory Commission of Alaska determines, under AS 42.05.141(g), that the sale price in a gas sales agreement for gas produced through a project partially or fully funded by a loan under this section does not exceed a just and reasonable immediate delivery price for gas;

(5) if the authority determines that the sales price for oil and gas produced through a project partially or fully funded by a loan under this section is reasonable and in the best interests of residents of the state.

(c) The authority may request assistance from the Department of Revenue under AS 44.25.020(a)(5) or the Department of Natural Resources under AS 44.37.020(d) to execute this section.

(d) The authority may accept an overriding royalty interest in a lease for which a loan has been extended under (b) of this section if, as a term of the loan, the overriding royalty interest is subject to prior approval by the Department of Natural Resources. The authority may only have the overriding royalty interest transferred to the authority if the borrower defaults.

Sec. 44.88.855. Cook Inlet oil and gas development projects; report. (a) The authority shall evaluate oil and gas development projects the authority believes have reasonable potential to increase oil and gas production from the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin. Each year, the authority shall prepare a report related to those oil and gas development projects and shall, by the first day of each regular session of the legislature, deliver the report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available. At the

request of a legislative committee, a representative of the authority shall appear in that committee to review the report. For each oil and gas development project, the report must include

- (1) a cost estimate for the project;
- (2) the potential recoverable gas from the project;
- (3) the projected rate of return for the project;
- (4) if the authority recommends a reserve-based loan for the project, the amount of funds necessary for deposit into the Cook Inlet reserve-based lending account to provide a loan for the project and the recommended source of funds for the deposit.

(b) Notwithstanding AS 44.88.215, 44.88.850(b)(2), or any other law, a borrower's information shall be subject to the public reporting requirements under this section. Each year, the authority shall prepare a report related to Cook Inlet reserve-based loans made under AS 44.88.850 and shall, by the first day of each regular session of the legislature, deliver the report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available. At the request of a legislative committee, a representative of the authority shall appear in that committee to review the report. The report must

- (1) identify each entity borrowing funds under AS 44.88.850;
- (2) list the amount borrowed by each borrower and the date each loan was approved;
- (3) include a summary of the terms of the lending agreement with each borrower;
- (4) summarize each project for which a loan was made, including the status of the project and the volume of oil and gas produced and expected to be produced from the project;
- (5) list the status of payments made on the loan, including whether the loan is or ever was in default."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 6, following line 24:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* **Sec. 9.** AS 44.88.900 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(20) "oil and gas development project" means a development project to produce proven oil or gas reserves;

(21) "reserve-based loan" means a loan made against and fully secured by an oil and gas field, proven undeveloped or developed oil and gas reserves, or other assets of the entity receiving the loan."

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE objected for the purpose of discussion.

CHAIR SUMNER summarized Amendment 1, stating that it is essentially the reserve-based lending language that had been under discussion many times in other committees.

[3:50:56 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK opined that Amendment 1, in substance, seemed like a separate piece of legislation. She noted her curiosity as to what other members of the committee thought.

[3:51:18 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:51 p.m. to 3:52 p.m.

[3:52:35 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 to change "may" to "shall" on line 23, page 2, and asked Legislative Legal Services to make conforming changes. He confirmed that he supported the underlying amendment.

[3:53:09 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX objected and expounded on the proposed word "shall".

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS gave an example of "Cook Inlet Investments" and the key being durability.

[3:54:07 PM](#)

TREVOR JEPSEN, Staff, Representative Tom McKay, Alaska State Legislature, said the thinking behind "may" was to give the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) the flexibility to take an ownership share but not require it.

[3:54:39 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked Chair Sumner what his preference was.

[3:55:02 PM](#)

BRANDON BREFCVYNSKI, Deputy Director, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, remarked upon the rigidity of requiring AIDEA to take an ownership stake. Having "may" gives more negotiating room but "shall" limits the ability to finance a project, he explained.

[3:56:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX spoke against the amendment and said that taking an ownership share equals accepting a higher degree of risk.

[3:57:31 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER confirmed his opposition [to Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1] and opined that it was too rigid.

[3:57:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS [moved to withdraw] Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1. [There being no objection, it was so ordered.]

[3:57:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE removed his objection [to Amendment 1]. There being no further objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

[3:58:26 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Amendment 2 to SB 239, as amended, labeled 33-LS1072\S.2, Walsh, 5/7/24, which read:

Page 1, line 1:
Delete "**and**"

Page 1, line 2, following "**projects**":
Insert "**; and authorizing the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to issue bonds to finance infrastructure that supports development of**

critical mineral, rare earth element, and energy projects"

Page 6, following line 24:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* Sec. 5. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL: STATEWIDE CRITICAL MINERAL, RARE EARTH ELEMENT, AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. (a) The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority may issue bonds to finance infrastructure and construction costs of infrastructure that support the development of critical mineral, rare earth element, and energy projects located in the state. The critical mineral, rare earth element, and energy project infrastructure shall be owned and operated by the authority or financed under AS 44.88.172, 44.88.650 - 44.88.690, or 44.88.800 - 44.88.840. The principal amount of the bonds provided by the authority for critical mineral, rare earth element, and energy projects may not exceed \$300,000,000 and may include the costs of issuing bonds considered reasonable and appropriate by the authority. The bonds shall be repaid from revenues of the authority.

(b) The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority may issue the bonds under this section in a single issuance or in several issuances, without limitation as to the number of issuances or timing, and as the authority determines best furthers the purpose of financing infrastructure that supports the development of critical mineral, rare earth element, and energy projects in the state.

(c) The bonds authorized by this section may not be considered in calculating the authority's bonding limitation for a 12-month period under AS 44.88.095(a).

(d) This section constitutes legislative approval required by AS 44.88.095(g)."

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE objected.

[3:58:30 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:58 p.m. to 4:02 p.m.

[4:02:15 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER [moved to withdraw] Amendment 2 to SB 239, as amended. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

[4:02:21 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 3 to SB 239, as amended, labeled 33-LS1072\B.3, Walsh, 5/1/24, which read:

Page 2, lines 13 - 14:

Delete "containing five or more dwelling units"

Page 5, line 22:

Delete "containing five or more dwelling units"

Page 6, lines 26 - 27:

Delete "containing five or more dwelling units"

Page 6, line 29, through page 7, line 1:

Delete "that costs the occupants less than 30 percent of the income of a household with 120 percent of the area median family income, as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, for where the housing is constructed"

Insert "containing five or more dwelling units"

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX objected.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS said that he developed the amendment because of his concern with the language on page 6, line 29. He stated that if the amendment were adopted, the program would support any multi-family workforce housing.

[4:03:34 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked whether there was a legal definition of "workforce housing".

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS answered that he was broadening the definition to not be confined to low-income housing because it captured only one segment of the workforce.

[4:04:24 PM](#)

JAMES HOLZENBERG, Staff, Senator Forrest Dunbar, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Senator Dunbar, prime sponsor of SB 239, explained that the definition was intended to narrow the

scope of the bill. He added that the utility of the amendment could benefit the legislation overall.

[4:05:41 PM](#)

MR. BREFCEYNSKI stated that he had no concerns with Amendment 3.

[4:05:56 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX maintained his objection.

[4:06:22 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Ruffridge, Wright, Carrick, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 3 to SB 239, as amended. Representatives Prax and Saddler voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 3 was adopted by a vote of 5-2.

[4:07:32 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report SB 239, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HCS SB 239(L&C) was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

SB 182-EXTEND BIG GAME COMM SERVICES BOARD

[4:08:05 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 182, "An Act extending the termination date of the Big Game Commercial Services Board; and providing for an effective date."

[4:08:25 PM](#)

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented SB 182 and reiterated the intent of the bill. He added that it reflected the Big Game Commercial Services Board's efforts to improve its fiscal position. He said the board had been consistently working in the best interest of the public and a six-year extension for the termination date had been recommended.

CHAIR SUMNER welcomed invited testifiers.

[4:10:37 PM](#)

AARON BLOOMQUIST, Chair, Big Game Commercial Services Board, spoke to the commercial services board and efforts around issues individual licensees and clients have. He confirmed that the budget was in good shape and explained investigative matters. He further noted that the department was understaffed, which can create challenges, but it continues to do its part. He noted that in the future, the board would bring requests to the legislature surrounding survivorships, emergency provisions, and continuing education.

[4:13:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER observed that the audit indicated the extension was a maximum of eight years and questioned why the request was for six.

SENATOR BJORKMAN clarified that the bill was written for an eight-year extension being that the board had been successfully fiscally responsible.

[4:15:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report SB 182 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, SB 182 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

SB 234-EXTEND MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD

[4:15:47 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 234, "An Act relating to the Marijuana Control Board; and providing for an effective date."

[4:16:04 PM](#)

SENATOR BJORKMAN, as prime sponsor, read the sponsor statement for SB 234 [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Senate Bill 234 proposes to extend the sunset date of the Marijuana Control Board (MCB) by three years.

In October of 2023, our Division of Legislative Audit completed a sunset audit of the Board. In this audit, it was determined that overall, the Board has operated in the public's interest by conducting its meetings in accordance with state law, as well as actively amending regulations and conducting investigation in a timely manner.

As you make an in-depth review the audit, you will see our auditor made note of three issues which should be addressed by the Board and the Legislature as it moves forward. First, AMCO's director should establish procedures to ensure handler permit documentation is properly maintained. Secondly, the MCB and AMCO's director should continue to implement a new license and enforcement information system. Thirdly, the legislature should consider requiring regulation changes be approved by the majority of the MCB members.

Currently, the Board will sunset on June 30, 2024. To allow the Board to continue working in the public interest, SB 234 follows the recommended three-year extension to June 30, 2027. A three-year extension was made in recognition that there may soon be significant changes to the MCB and to AMCO duties. Additionally, this would align the next MCB audit with that of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board's next audit.

I urge your support of this legislation.

[4:17:59 PM](#)

JOAN WILSON, Director, Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office, began her testimony by relating the numbers of cultivators and businesses in Alaska and that without the control board, she opined the industry would cease to exist. She said the board would be addressing its license fees, because the industry would have retained the money borrowed from the general fund. She noted that there is an advantage of aligning the sunset with the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC). She explained that there would still be a need to regulate marijuana on a statewide basis even with the changes in regulations. She emphasized that the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) is a tight-knit, hardworking office and it was a privilege to serve Alaska.

[4:20:43 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER spoke to the audit and asked whether the board had a role in enforcing collection of taxes.

MS. WILSON replied no, but that the board had the ability to revoke licenses. She noted there are currently 300 defunct licenses and the board is working hard to collect the money.

[4:22:08 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked how many vacant staff for license processing are at AMCO. She further inquired about how many overall staff there were.

MS. WILSON replied that AMCO is recruiting for three licensing examiners and one administrative assistant. She added that it was due to the Title 4 rewrite. In response to a follow-up question, she replied that there are 24 positions at AMCO.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK said the audit related that licensing delays served as a barrier to the marijuana industry. She commented that if people cannot enter legally, or in time, there is a chance of them entering the market illegally. She offered her belief that filling the open positions is something that the legislature should make a high priority.

MS. WILSON related that when she started two years ago, it took eight months to get to queued applications. She said AMCO re-prioritizes as much as it can to serve applicants. She stated that the good news is that the queue has improved.

[4:25:41 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report SB 234 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, SB 234 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

SB 115-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE

[4:26:05 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 115(HSS) AM, "An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to physicians; and relating to health care insurance policies."

[4:26:33 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:26 p.m. to 4:28 p.m.

[4:28:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE confirmed he would not offer Amendment 1. He moved to adopt Amendment 2 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.3, Gunther, 5/3/24, which read:

Page 3, line 7:

Delete "one or more collaborating physicians"

Insert "a collaborating physician"

Page 3, lines 7 - 8:

Delete "A collaborating physician or physicians"

Insert "The collaborating physician"

Page 3, lines 10 - 12:

Delete "one or more collaborating physicians who, collectively, practice in each of the physician assistant's practice areas"

Insert "the collaborating physician"

Page 3, following line 13:

Insert new paragraphs to read:

"(2) be between a physician assistant and a collaborating physician who practices in each of the practice areas of the physician assistant;

(3) describe the practice areas of the physician assistant and the collaborating physician;"

Renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

Page 3, line 22, following "assistant;":

Insert "and"

Page 3, line 24:

Delete "; and"

Insert "."

Page 3, lines 25 - 26:

Delete all material.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE said that Amendment 2 sought to clarify that "collaborative physician" in the bill should be a singular person, whereas in the underlying bill there is a desire to clarify that there can be an alternate.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

[4:29:12 PM](#)

SENATOR LÖKI TOBIN, Alaska State Senator, as prime sponsor of SB 115, said she would defer to an expert to ensure there was accurate information given.

[4:29:27 PM](#)

JENNIFER FAYETTE, PA, offered her belief that it went back to statute versus regulation and opined that it was a confusing conversation in the bill.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked whether limiting [the definition] to one person produced a problem in, for example, a tribal health system where two collaborating physicians could be beneficial.

MS. FAYETTE responded that collaboration and consultation are always available to everyone. She opined that it is burdensome to require more than one [collaborator].

[4:31:03 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT removed his objection.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected.

[4:31:11 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Prax, Ruffridge, Saddler, and Wright voted in favor of Amendment 2. Representatives Carrick and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 2 was adopted by a vote of 5-2.

[4:31:49 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 3 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.9, Gunther, 5/6/24, which read:

Page 3, line 4:

Delete "4,000"
Insert "10,000"

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected for purposes of discussion.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS explained that Amendment 3 would change the hours prior to independent practice from 4,000 to 10,000. He offered his belief that 4,000 hours is too low, and the amendment is an attempt to strike a balance.

[4:32:29 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER sought clarity if it would be 5 years of full-time work.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS replied yes, assuming one works 2,000 hours a year and he further noted that it would differ based on practice.

[4:33:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

SENATOR TOBIN added that the amendment would require a physician assistant (PA) to have additional hours, and if an assistant were to switch specialties, there would be additional requirements that would equal that of physicians. She gave an example of Utah and its specific provisions. She noted that in Alaska, there are not enough collaborating physicians and it would make it more difficult on the PA to find collaborators for those five years.

[4:34:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK noted that Amendment 1, which was not offered, would have moved from 4,000 to 8,000 hours.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 3, to change the hours to 8,000.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE objected.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK said that the intent was to provide a better balance between the scope of the bill and the underlying amendment.

[4:35:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS offered support for the conceptual amendment.

[4:35:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT asked Senator Tobin whether 4,000 hours was adequate and 8,000 was overkill.

SENATOR TOBIN deferred to Ms. Fayette for further clarity.

[4:36:35 PM](#)

MS. FAYETTE said that the ongoing misconception is how much education one receives and noted that the PA program requires 2,000 hours to be accepted into medical school. She related that the average person has 6,000 hours of patient care. She advised that PAs are not trying to be doctors but are seeking a pathway that gets people to provide better care and stay current in what they do.

[4:38:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS commented that 8,000 hours was the bare minimum he could support.

[4:38:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE stated that he had never heard of the large number of hours being completed prior to going to school, and asked, "The hours in what?"

MS. FAYETTE responded that it had to be repetitive patient care and added that many students are emergency medical technicians (EMTs), nursing students, and medical assistants. She shared that her program had a minimum of 2,500 hours.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE shared an anecdote of his educational background. He asked, in order to go to PA school, whether a person that has completed high school or undergrad training cannot apply.

MS. FAYETTE answered that they probably would not be accepted. She clarified it must be paid hours and one must have 2,000 paid patient care.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked whether there was a barrier put in place by the schools and who established the hourly requirement in order to attend school.

[4:41:38 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN explained that each program had different prerequisite requirements. She listed the types of hourly requirements and that programs require at least a bare minimum to be accepted into these highly competitive programs. She reiterated that it was not the intent to have PAs in line with physicians.

[4:43:12 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER asked how the scope of practice would differ from that of a physician under the proposed legislation.

SENATOR TOBIN pointed to the differences on page 2, line 5, which showed a list of what PAs do, and for example, PAs do not operate under regulation. She mentioned an inpatient procedure such as stitches which may fall under an "operation."

[4:44:34 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT questioned whether 2,000 hours was adequate for the scope of work but observed that 4,000 had been compromised on.

[4:44:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE provided his rationale and added that he thought 10,000 hours made sense but not in the way that Amendment 3 brought it forward. He affirmed he would not support the conceptual amendment or the underlying amendment.

[4:46:10 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Carrick, Fields, and Sumner voted in favor of Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 3. Representatives Wright, Ruffridge, Saddler, and Prax voted against it. Therefore, the Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 3 failed to be adopted by a vote of 3-4.

[4:47:04 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK noted her appreciation for PA testimony stating 4,000 hours as being adequate. She offered her support for Amendment 3 being that she was not convinced that without the amendment some of the parity would be received.

[4:48:22 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN gave a reminder that every PA program required 2,000 hours and these additional collaborative hours would be on top of that.

[4:48:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS questioned whether there were any doctors online to give an overview of hours in school and clinical rotation.

CHAIR SUMNER confirmed there was not anyone online or in the room.

[4:49:35 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Carrick and Fields voted in favor of Amendment 3. Representatives Saddler, Wright, Prax, Ruffridge, and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 3 failed to be adopted by a vote of 2-5.

[4:50:10 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 4 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.10, Gunther, 5/6/24, which read:

Page 1, line 11:
Delete "[AND]"
Insert "and"

Page 1, line 12, through page 2, line 4:
Delete "; and"

(5) hours of practice experience, if any, that a physician assistant must complete under a collaborative agreement to practice in a practice area that is substantively different than the physician assistant's previous practice areas; the board may not require that a physician assistant complete more than 4,000 hours under this paragraph, in addition to the hours required under (c) of this section, to practice

in a new practice area without a collaborative agreement"

Page 3, lines 3 - 5:

Delete "Unless additional hours are required by the board to practice in a new practice area under (a)(5) of this section, a physician assistant with less than 4,000 hours of practice experience"

Insert "Except as provided in (d) of this section, a physician assistant"

Page 3, following line 26:

Insert a new subsection to read:

"(d) A physician assistant with 4,000 or more hours of practice experience under a collaborative agreement may provide primary care services permitted under (b) of this section without having a collaborative agreement in place."

Reletter the following subsections accordingly.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE objected.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS summarized that the amendment limits independent practice of PAs to primary care.

[4:51:07 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

[4:51:13 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN offered her belief that "carve outs" are problematic. She noted that a similar provision was proposed out of state and the reality led to fewer PA practices. She deferred to Ms. Fayette for further reasoning on the proposed amendment.

MS. FAYETTE reiterated that the bill was put forward for access to care. She noted that there are specialty doctors lacking in parts of Alaska and gave personal examples of the scope of her work in the clinic. She stressed the importance of recognizing the shortages but still being able to "answer the call."

[4:54:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE appreciated the testimony and asked Ms. Fayette if the bill were to pass whether she would practice independently or attempt to continue in a collaborative fashion.

MS. FAYETTE responded that the bill wouldn't change a lot for her regarding a "surgical assist."

[4:56:16 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR SUMNER recessed the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to 10 minutes following the adjournment of House floor session. [The motion to adopt Amendment 4 was left pending, with objection.]

[7:13:15 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee back to order. Present during the call back to order were Representatives Prax, Carrick, Fields, Ruffridge, and Sumner. Representatives Saddler and Wright arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SB 115-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE

[7:13:19 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the final order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 115(HSS) AM, "An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to physicians; and relating to health care insurance policies."

SENATOR TOBIN noted that Ms. Fayette wished to continue her closing comments.

[7:13:48 PM](#)

MS. FAYETTE said that when a collaborator is lost, it causes delayed care; therefore, access to care gets interrupted.

[7:14:21 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representative Fields voted in favor of Amendment 4. Representatives Ruffridge, Wright, Carrick, Prax, and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 4 failed to be adopted by a vote of 1-5.

7:15:05 PM

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS stated that he will not move Amendment 5 and moved to adopt Amendment 6 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.14, A. Radford/Gunther, 5/6/24, which read:

Page 3, following line 29:

Insert a new subsection to read:

"(e) Before a physician assistant may provide services under this section, the physician assistant must inform the patient that the services will be performed by a physician assistant and identify any physician who is present for the services."

Reletter the following subsection accordingly.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS explained that existing law does not require PAs to identify themselves as such, and the amendment would require the PA to relate that they are a PA.

7:16:03 PM

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

SENATOR TOBIN said that Ms. Fayette could speak to the regulation.

7:16:24 PM

MS. FAYETTE said that current regulations require a sign that shows a PA's credentials and that their education is on file. In addition, they must wear a nametag or clothing that presents them as a PA.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT asked whether a PA greets and tells a patient their name and title.

MS. FAYETTE confirmed that she does and added that she will correct a patient if they think she is a physician.

7:17:08 PM

SENATOR TOBIN explained that it is in regulation that all who are not MDs or physicians must identify themselves as not being a doctor.

[7:17:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK, referencing the second part of the amendment, asked whether PAs currently need to identify a physician who is present for the services.

MS. FAYETTE responded that in regulation, any provider should present themselves.

[7:18:25 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN noted that 12 percent of collaborating physicians have licenses outside the state.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK relayed her concern that the second part of Amendment 6 would be challenging to put into place when there is a lack of physicians.

[7:19:40 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER advised members of a new invited testifier.

[7:20:04 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked the amendment sponsor if the intent of the amendment is to allow a PA to perform services only if a physician is present.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS responded that was not the intent because remote collaborating physicians are necessary and helpful.

[7:21:04 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN noted that regulation provided penalties for noncompliance of identification.

CHAIR SUMNER commented that if it was put in statute, penalties would still exist in regulation.

SENATOR TOBIN said it was a concern in that the regulations would need to be re-written and there may be confusion from the medical board.

[7:22:06 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS clarified it was not the intent to change more details in regulations.

[7:22:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 6 to delete the following from line 5 [as numbered on Amendment 6]: "and identify any physician who is present for the services". There being no objection, it was so ordered.

CHAIR SUMNER advised that Amendment 6, as amended, with objection, was before the committee.

[7:23:11 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Ruffridge, Saddler, Carrick, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 6, as amended. Representatives Prax and Wright voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 6, as amended, was adopted by a vote of 5-2.

[7:23:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 7 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.19, Gunther, 5/7/24, which read:

Page 2, line 3:
Delete "(c)"
Insert "(d)"

Page 2, line 31:
Delete "and"

Page 2, following line 31:
Insert a new paragraph to read:
"(13) assist in the performance of an operation performed by a physician, osteopath, or podiatrist licensed under this chapter; and"

Renumber the following paragraph accordingly.

Page 3, following line 2:
Insert a new subsection to read:

"(c) A physician assistant may not perform an operation."

Reletter the following subsections accordingly.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS summarized Amendment 7 and that the intent was to offer better clarification for scopes of practice.

[7:24:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for definition regarding assisting in the performance of an operation versus performing an operation.

SENATOR TOBIN noted that the terms are not defined within the amendment. She referred to the first part of the amendment as being problematic, being it may create difficulties for providers. She further noted other difficulties that may be created.

[7:26:52 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS requested a doctor online who could speak to Amendment 7.

[7:27:24 PM](#)

KRISTIN MITCHELL, MD, President, Alaska State Medical Association, after noting her credentials, said that the definition of "operation" could be broadly determined and could create complications. She briefly explained the definitions of medical practitioners.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked whether the committee should distinguish that PAs should not perform operations or withdraw Amendment 7.

DR. MITCHELL replied that she was not an expert in legislative language but suggested one possibility would be to specify that a PA would assist with but not perform a surgery.

[7:29:10 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER asked about the difference between a surgery or an operation and inquired what stitches would fall under.

DR. MITCHELL noted that there had been an open debate about what was considered a procedure or minor surgery, and it was not entirely clear. She gave an example that a minor surgery could include removing skin lesions.

[7:30:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS [moved to withdraw] Amendment 7. [There being no objection, Amendment 7 was withdrawn.]

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 8 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.20, A. Radford/Gunther, 5/7/24, which read:

Page 1, line 11:

Delete "[AND]"

Insert "and"

Page 1, line 12, through page 2, line 4:

Delete "; and"

(5) hours of practice experience, if any, that a physician assistant must complete under a collaborative agreement to practice in a practice area that is substantively different than the physician assistant's previous practice areas; the board may not require that a physician assistant complete more than 4,000 hours under this paragraph, in addition to the hours required under (c) of this section, to practice in a new practice area without a collaborative agreement"

Page 3, lines 3 - 5:

Delete "Unless additional hours are required by the board to practice in a new practice area under (a)(5) of this section, a physician assistant with less than 4,000 hours of practice experience"

Insert "Except as provided under (f) of this section, a physician assistant"

Page 3, following line 29:

Insert new subsections to read:

"(e) A collaborative agreement may designate one or more alternate collaborating physicians to whom the responsibility to oversee and communicate with a physician assistant under the collaborative agreement may be assigned.

(f) Upon termination of a collaborative agreement, a physician assistant with 4,000 or more hours of practice experience may practice within the scope of services authorized under the terminated collaborative agreement without a collaborating physician for up to one year."

Reletter the following subsection accordingly.

Page 3, line 31:

Delete "and a collaborating physician"
Insert ", one or more collaborating physicians, and, if applicable, one or more alternate collaborating physicians"

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS summarized the amendment and highlighted that it would allow PAs to designate an alternate collaborating physician and, in the meantime, practice independently.

[7:31:27 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER questioned termination and whether either could terminate at will.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS clarified that it could be either, but was not meant to imply a negative experience. He reiterated that the intent is that the PA should be able to keep practicing.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for clarity about termination.

[7:32:49 PM](#)

MS. FAYETTE said she had seen the language before in emergency stipulations but in statute she opined it is unfair.

SENATOR TOBIN stated that she opposed the amendment because it is hard to find collaborating physicians currently, and there are now 313 PAs without collaborating physicians; therefore, requiring them to identify an alternative is an overly administrative burden and would not provide more access to care.

[7:33:48 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER expressed confusion over the consistency.

[CHAIR SUMNER passed the gavel to Vice Chair Ruffridge.]

[7:34:15 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 7:34 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

[7:35:17 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR RUFFRIDGE asked for any further discussion on Amendment 8.

[7:35:31 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representative Fields voted in favor of Amendment 8. Representatives Prax, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, and Ruffridge voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 8 failed to be adopted by a vote of 1-5.

[7:36:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 9 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.21, A. Radford/Gunther, 5/7/24, which read:

Page 1, line 12:
Delete "and"

Page 2, line 4, following "agreement":
Insert "; and

(6) range of different activities similar to clinical rotations a physician assistant must perform when obtaining hours of practice experience required under (a) (5) or (c) of this section"

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS synthesized that the amendment clarified that in the hours performed under collaborating physicians, there would be a range of experience similar to medical doctors. He added it would make sense to have a breadth of tasks.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT wished to hear from the bill sponsor on how the proposed amendment would affect the spirit of the bill.

[7:37:22 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN referenced a document members received that provided an overview of requirements for professions, but she clarified it failed to note that PAs are required to complete 27 months of continuous education. She noted further requirements regarding licensing in Alaska and that it is not an apprenticeship program; PAs are not trying to be doctors.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT added that he admired Representative Fields' work toward apprenticeships but did not think this was the piece of legislation for that.

[7:39:04 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked about definitions regarding clinical rotations and practice experience.

MS. FAYETTE said that clinical rotations are well established, supervised, four-month rotations.

[7:40:28 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR RUFFRIDGE inquired whether the rotations are part of the required 27 months.

MS. FAYETTE confirmed that was correct.

[7:40:49 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER inquired further about the clinical rotation.

MS. FAYETTE explained that you observe what is happening and perform things, such as exams, under the supervision of your supervising physician or PA.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked whether it was fair to say that a clinical rotation is a supervised training or apprenticeship.

MS. FAYETTE answered that it is about gaining experience.

[7:42:19 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR RUFFRIDGE asked Ms. Fayette for accuracy that in 27 months, she performed 2,000 hours of clinical work, which is approximately a year of training; therefore, that meant 15 months was course work, and 12 months was clinical work.

MS. FAYETTE responded yes.

[7:42:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked about the definition of practice experience.

SENATOR TOBIN opined that the amendment tried to mimic what happens while a PA is in a training program. She restated the percentage of collaborating physicians that do not live in Alaska and that she was unsure how supervised clinical rotation would happen in this context.

[7:44:18 PM](#)

[VICE CHAIR RUFFRIDGE passed the gavel back to Chair Sumner.]

[7:44:40 PM](#)

DR. MITCHELL offered her understanding that clinical rotations would be for medical students and there are levels of training. She shared her experience and expectations and expounded on the levels of responsibilities one gains through the years. She concluded that she could not draw a reasonable parallel between time and practice experience without someone with whom a learning individual could collaborate closely, among other factors.

[7:47:34 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked Dr. Mitchell whether the requirement was established in statute, regulation, or by the accreditor.

DR. MITCHELL deferred to Dr. Jones.

[7:48:31 PM](#)

ROXANNE JONES, MD, Secretary of the Board, Alaska Academy of Family Physicians, explained that it was a combination and briefly offered examples of residency timelines.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX pointed to the specific requirements of the residency program and whether it was established by the accreditor as opposed to statute. .

DR. JONES confirmed that was correct.

[7:50:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS noted that Dr. Mitchell captured the intent for residency in reference to the different tasks performed.

[7:51:08 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX expressed his uncertainty that establishing this in statute would dictate the apprenticeship program for industries, as that is established by unions, not state statute.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS clarified what he meant by "apprenticeship," that there are standards and benefits from learning on the job.

[7:52:37 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE shared his concern that PAs might tailor themselves to be in a particular practice areas based off the collaboration agreement they have. According to the bill, he opined that the PA should be in primary care.

[7:54:39 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Carrick, Fields, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 9. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, Saddler, and Wright voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 9 failed to be adopted by a vote of 3-4.

[7:55:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS stated he would not offer Amendments 10 and 11.

[7:55:34 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Amendment 12 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.17, Klein/Gunther, 5/7/24, which read:

Page 1, line 1, following **"physicians;"**:

Insert **"relating to a physician assistant licensure program for prison inmates; relating to parole eligibility;"**

Page 1, line 12:

Delete "and"

Page 2, line 4, following "agreement":

Insert "; and

(6) criteria for licensing prison inmates under the program established by the Department of Corrections under AS 33.30.192"

Page 5, following line 23:

Insert new bill sections to read:

"* **Sec. 7.** AS 33.16.090(a) is amended to read:

(a) A prisoner sentenced to an active term of imprisonment of at least 181 days may, in the discretion of the board, be released on discretionary parole if the prisoner

(1) has served the amount of time specified under (b) of this section or has completed the program under AS 33.30.192 and is licensed as a physician assistant under AS 08.64.107, except that

(A) a prisoner sentenced to one or more mandatory 99-year terms under AS 12.55.125(a) or one or more definite terms under AS 12.55.125(l) is not eligible for consideration for discretionary parole;

(B) a prisoner is not eligible for consideration of discretionary parole if made ineligible by order of a court under AS 12.55.115;

(C) a prisoner imprisoned under AS 12.55.086 is not eligible for discretionary parole unless the actual term of imprisonment is more than one year;

(D) a prisoner sentenced to a single sentence within or below a presumptive range set out in AS 12.55.125(c), (d)(2) - (4), (e)(3) and (4), or (i) who has not been allowed by the three-judge panel under AS 12.55.175 to be considered for discretionary parole release is not eligible for consideration of discretionary parole;

(E) a prisoner sentenced to a single sentence, including a consecutive or partially consecutive sentence, that is not eligible for a good time deduction under AS 33.20.010(a)(3) and that has not been allowed by the three-judge panel under AS 12.55.175 to be considered for discretionary parole release is not eligible for consideration of discretionary parole; or

(2) is at least 60 years of age, has served at least 10 years of a sentence for one or more crimes

in a single judgment, and has not been convicted of an unclassified felony or a sexual felony as defined in AS 12.55.185.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 33.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 33.30.192. Physician assistant training program. The department, in consultation with the State Medical Board, shall establish a program that allows prison inmates to pursue licensure as a physician assistant under AS 08.64.107."

Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

CHAIR SUMNER explained that there was a provider shortage, and the amendment is one way to address that.

[7:56:29 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER commented that there was also a shortage of peace and police officers and noted the possibility to entertain a conceptual amendment.

[7:56:41 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

SENATOR TOBIN said that to be accredited, you must have an established program in your facility, among other requirements.

[7:58:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK noted a previous robust debate about allowing prisoners tablets but that she appreciated the intent of the amendment; however, she was not sure the body could make a policy call of this magnitude.

[7:59:15 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Carrick, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 12. Representatives Wright, Prax, Ruffridge, and Saddler voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 12 failed to be adopted by a vote of 3-4.

[7:59:54 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER stated he would not offer Amendment 13.

[8:00:02 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Amendment 14 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.24, Gunther, 5/8/24, which read:

Page 2, line 27, following "number;":
Insert "and"

Page 2, line 31:
Delete "; and"
Insert "."

Page 3, lines 1 - 2:
Delete all material.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE said the intent of the amendment was to remove language that was "overly broad."

[8:01:06 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:01 p.m. to 8:03 p.m.

[8:03:02 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

SENATOR TOBIN explained "scope of practice" and that there are regulations and oversights of the PA profession. She understood the section was broad, but it was a "catch all" section that ensured that care could be provided.

[8:06:03 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER observed that the language was quite broad and questioned who defined what was competent.

SENATOR TOBIN replied that the scope of practice was determined by factors including policies and laws.

[8:08:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX opined that there are two entities who will make the determination: the judge or the lawyer. He added he would be happy to let them make the decision as they are "more competent than we are."

MS. FAYETTE noted the importance of the specific definitions of regulations.

[8:10:10 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Saddler, Ruffridge, Fields, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 14. Representatives Carrick, Prax, and Wright voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 14 was adopted by a vote of 4-3.

[8:10:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Amendment 15 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.25, Gunther, 5/8/24, which read:

Page 2, line 3, following "(c)":
Insert "and (f)"

Page 3, lines 3 - 4:
Delete "by the board to practice in a new practice area under (a) (5)"
Insert "under (a) (5) or (f)"

Page 3, line 24:
Delete "and"

Page 3, line 26, following "areas":
Insert "; and
(8) designate a collaborating physician as the primary collaborating physician"

Page 3, line 27, following "or":
Insert "primary"

Page 3, following line 29:
Insert new subsections to read:
"(e) A physician assistant and primary collaborating physician shall maintain a record on a form provided by the department of the number of hours of practice experience obtained by the physician assistant. The form must include the

(1) area of practice specialty of the collaborating physician; and

(2) hours completed by practice type.

(f) Upon the physician assistant's completion of 4,000 hours of practice experience, additional hours required under (a)(5) of this section, or additional hours required under this subsection, the primary collaborating physician shall attest on a form provided by the department that the physician assistant is competent to practice without supervision. If the primary collaborating physician determines that the physician assistant is not competent to practice without supervision, the board shall require that the physician assistant practice under a collaborative agreement for additional hours, as determined by the board.

(g) A physician assistant is entitled to a hearing conducted by the board to appeal a determination by a primary collaborating physician that the physician assistant is not competent to practice without supervision. The physician assistant may appeal an adverse decision of the board to a court of competent jurisdiction. The board or court may reverse the primary collaborating physician's determination that the physician assistant is not competent to practice without supervision if the board or court finds that the primary collaborating physician's determination was arbitrary and capricious or without just cause.

(h) The board shall randomly audit three percent of the physician assistants licensed under this section to assess each physician assistant's compliance with the requirements of this chapter."

Reletter the following subsection accordingly.

Page 3, line 31:

Delete "a collaborating physician"

Insert "one or more collaborating physicians"

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE noted the amendment was lengthy and summarized that the intent of the amendment was to establish how and what the hours accomplish.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

[8:13:48 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN confirmed that she worked with the amendment sponsor and there would be no additional fiscal impact.

[8:14:22 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER offered an assumption that the collaborating physician was the employing physician. He noted concern about the added responsibility on a physician who would be made to determine who is competent, and that it was a liability question.

DR. MITCHELL commented that the amendment provided sidebars, extra supervision, and assurance that if there was independent practice, the physician could evaluate the PA's abilities and attest to them.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked whether physicians pass judgement on their PAs currently.

DR. MITCHELL said she did not employ PAs, but she would presume from her colleagues that if they did not feel the PA was providing adequate care, they would request that person find other employment.

[8:18:11 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER commented that if a PA was not working "shoulder to shoulder" with a physician, that relationship would have less value.

DR. MITCHELL opined that the amendment increases the value of the agreement because it makes the PA supervisor be more attentive to the skills and experience of the PA in that environment.

[8:19:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT removed his objection.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX objected.

[8:19:55 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Ruffridge, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, Fields, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 15. Representative Prax voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 15 failed to be adopted by a vote of 6-1.

[8:20:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE stated he would not offer Amendment 16.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Amendment 17 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.27, Gunther, 5/8/24, which read:

Page 2, line 2:

Delete "4,000"

Insert "6,000"

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE summarized the amendment how it related to amounts of hours without a collaborative agreement.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

[8:23:06 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN asked, "Do we have the right skills sets and knowledge to determine what is the appropriate number of hours?" She spoke to other states that are untethered, and she opined that to remain competitive, 4,000 worked was a good pathway to independence.

[8:23:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked the amendment maker for clarification that if a PA were to switch areas of practice, they must have 6,000 additional hours.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE explained that 6,000 would be the initial number of hours, and should the PA change practice areas, they would need to go back into a collaborative agreement for an additional 4,000 hours.

[8:25:28 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE offered a conceptual amendment to Amendment 17 that it would read: "page 3, line 4".

[8:25:46 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:25 p.m. to 8:27 p.m.

[8:27:04 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SUMNER announced there being no objection, Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 17 was adopted. `

[8:28:23 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:28 p.m. to 8:29 p.m.

[8:29:20 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Ruffridge, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 17, as amended. Representative Prax voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 17, as amended, was adopted by a vote of 6-1.

[8:29:48 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX moved to adopt Amendment 18 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.29, Gunther, 5/8/24, which read:

Page 1, line 1:
Delete "**and**"

Page 1, line 2, following "**policies**":
Insert "**; relating to internship and residency requirements to practice medicine and osteopathy; and relating to physician and osteopath specialty designations**"

Page 4, following line 13:
Insert a new bill section to read:

"* Sec. 4. AS 08.64.272 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) The board shall adopt regulations allowing a physician or osteopath licensed under this chapter who has completed a residency or internship in a particular practice area to receive a license endorsement designating the physician or osteopath as specializing in that practice area."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 5, following line 31:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* **Sec. 9.** AS 08.64.200(a)(2), 08.64.205(2),
08.64.225(a)(2)(A), and 08.64.225(c) are repealed."

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX explained that the amendment would remove the medical residency requirements for medical doctors and doctors of [osteopathic medicine]. He further noted a transitional component, which would allow physicians in the middle of a residency program to complete it.

[8:30:32 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER asked Representative Prax whether he would be incentivized to complete a residency program if the requirement went away.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX said, "It would be up to them."

[8:30:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS said he opposed the amendment to maintain public faith.

[8:30:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

[8:31:03 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN said she did not have a comment.

[8:31:18 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Prax and Wright voted in favor of Amendment 18. Representatives Fields, Ruffridge, Saddler, Carrick, and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 18 failed to be adopted by a vote of 2-5.

[8:31:50 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Amendment 16 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, labeled 33-LS0542\U.A.26, Gunther, 5/8/24, which read:

Page 5, lines 13 - 23:
Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

CHAIR SUMNER explained that amendment untethers PAs that are providing services in correctional facilities, and the intent would be that they have a place to get their hours without a collaborative agreement.

[8:32:42 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:32 p.m. to 8:33 p.m.

[8:33:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

SENATOR TOBIN thanked the amendment maker for thinking about prisoners, and offered her belief they should have access to adequate care, but that the amendment created a two-tiered system.

[8:34:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER commented that he was not sure the bill would prohibit a PA from working in a correctional facility, and was not sure it was necessary unless there was an assumption the PA would not have to go through the initial collaborative agreement.

[8:35:18 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER said the intent of the amendment was to create a "fast track" for work without a collaborative agreement.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER followed up about concerns with a two-tiered system and that it could expose the state to litigation.

CHAIR SUMNER stated, "You need providers to provide care."

[8:35:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX opined that if prisoners were polled, they would welcome this service.

8:36:13 PM

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Prax, and Ruffridge voted in favor of Amendment 16. Representatives Carrick, Saddler, Wright, and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 16 failed to be adopted by a vote of 3-4.

8:37:06 PM

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment [19] to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, on page 2, line 10, to delete "perform" and "interpret".

CHAIR SUMNER objected being it was past the amendment deadline [and Conceptual Amendment 16 had not been previously submitted]. He then said it would "have to be the absolute last one."

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE expressed concern about the language offered previously about a broad interpretation on performing diagnostics. He expounded on training and interpretation of types of diagnostics.

8:39:19 PM

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT requested to hear from the bill sponsor.

MS. FAYETTE commented that the point of the bill is to increase access to care and in rural areas, a PA may be the only person who can provide it. She opined that it could put burdens on the things PAs can do.

8:40:08 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK opposed the amendment. She said having to see a physician to get a result read would be a hurdle to many Alaskans. She reiterated that the intent of the legislation is about untethering PAs, not about limiting their scope of practice.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE responded that there is a process for a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) waiver, which provides "up or down" diagnoses without the very specific language.

[8:42:09 PM](#)

DR. MITCHELL shared her interpretations and said that she agreed with Representative Ruffridge about the performance of diagnostic procedures.

[8:44:21 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER noted that part of the challenge is requiring the legislature to make judgements about who is qualified to perform what kind of medical services.

[8:45:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked Dr. Mitchell whether removal of the words "perform" and "interpret" in the section would limit a PA to conduct certain tests.

DR. MITCHELL deferred to Dr. Jones.

[8:46:14 PM](#)

DR. JONES replied yes, the PA could still do tests such as a urine analysis through a CLIA waived test that provides a yes, no, or algorithmic answer. Striking the words would not prevent this interpretation, she confirmed.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked whether a CLIA waiver was something that a PA could get a blanket waiver for or whether it was limited to specific situations.

DR. JONES responded that a CLIA waiver is based on a clinic obtaining a specific test type for any patient and is assigned to the clinic.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK sought clarity about a PA obtaining a CLIA waiver.

DR. JONES said she did not know what the baseline requirements would be for a CLIA waiver status for a lab, as it required a medical doctor to sign off.

[8:48:30 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER asked Representative Ruffridge for more clarification on the words that would be removed.

[8:49:01 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:49 p.m. to 8:51 p.m.

[8:51:04 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE [moved to withdraw] Conceptual Amendment [19]. [There being no objection, Conceptual Amendment 19 was withdrawn.]

[8:51:11 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 4 to CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, on page 2, line 11, following "procedures", to insert "in compliance with regulation adopted under AS08.64.106".

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

[8:52:06 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:52 p.m. to 8:53 p.m.

[8:53:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT removed his objection.

[8:53:25 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected and commented that something was already in regulation.

SENATOR TOBIN said that the amendment would add new subsections to Alaska Statute and added clarity to the phrase that would be inserted.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER removed his objection. There being no further objection, Conceptual Amendment [19] was adopted.

[8:55:13 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:55 p.m. to 8:56 p.m.

[8:56:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected for the purpose of discussion. She thanked the PA and MDs that provided testimony as well as the bill sponsor. She shared her thoughts that it was hard to amend substantive bills this late in the session. She removed her objection.

[8:57:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected.

[8:58:26 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Wright, Carrick, Prax, Ruffridge, and Sumner voted in favor of the motion to report CSSB 115(HSS) AM, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. Representative Saddler voted against it. Therefore, HCS CSSB 115(L&C) was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee by a vote of 5-1.

[8:58:38 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.