

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 70(HSS)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/21/25

Referred: Labor and Commerce

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SCHRAGE, Galvin

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to emergency medical services for operational canines; relating to the  
2 powers, duties, and liability of emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care  
3 paramedics; relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; and providing for an  
4 effective date."

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

6 \* **Section 1.** AS 08.98.120(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) A person may not practice veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry unless  
8 the person is licensed as a veterinarian under this chapter or has a temporary permit  
9 issued under AS 08.98.186, except that a person may perform functions authorized by

10 (1) regulation of the board if the person is licensed as a veterinary  
11 technician; [OR]

12 (2) a permit issued under AS 08.02.050 if the person is employed by  
13 an agency that has a permit issued under AS 08.02.050; **or**

14 **(3) AS 18.08.093 if the person is certified as an emergency medical**

1           **technician or licensed as a mobile intensive care paramedic.**

2           \* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.08.075(a) is amended to read:

3                   (a) An emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who  
4                   responds to an emergency with an ambulance service or first responder service, who  
5                   has in the technician's or mobile intensive care paramedic's possession a current  
6                   emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic identification card,  
7                   and who provides emergency medical care or other emergency medical service, has  
8                   the authority to

9                           (1) control and direct activities at the accident site or emergency until  
10                           the arrival of law enforcement personnel;

11                           (2) order a person other than the owner to leave a building or place in  
12                           the vicinity of the accident or other emergency for the purpose of protecting the person  
13                           from injury;

14                           (3) temporarily block a public highway, street, or private right-of-way  
15                           while at the scene of an accident, illness, or emergency;

16                           (4) trespass **on** [UPON] property at or near the scene of an accident,  
17                           illness, or emergency at any time of day or night;

18                           (5) enter a building, including a private dwelling, or premises where a  
19                           report of an injury or illness has taken place or where there is a reasonable cause to  
20                           believe an individual **or operational canine** has been injured or is ill to render  
21                           emergency medical care; and

22                           (6) direct the removal or destruction of a motor vehicle or other thing  
23                           that the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic determines  
24                           is necessary to prevent further harm to injured or ill individuals **or operational**  
25                           **canines.**

26           \* **Sec. 3.** AS 18.08.082(a) is amended to read:

27                   (a) The department shall prescribe by regulation a course of training or other  
28                   requirements prerequisite to the issuance of certificates or licenses that provide for the  
29                   following:

30                           (1) certification of a person who meets the training and other  
31                           requirements as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician

1 instructor, or emergency medical dispatcher;

2 (2) authorization for an emergency medical technician certified under  
3 this chapter to provide under the written or oral direction of a physician the advanced  
4 life support services enumerated on the certificate or enumerated on a written  
5 document filed with the department by the technician's medical director and approved  
6 by the department under its regulations;

7 (3) certification that a person, organization, or government agency that  
8 provides an emergency medical service, conducts a training course for a mobile  
9 intensive care paramedic, or represents itself as a trauma center meets the minimum  
10 standards prescribed by the department for that service, course, or designation;

11 (4) authorization for an emergency medical service certified under this  
12 chapter to provide under the written or oral direction of a physician the advanced life  
13 support services enumerated on the certificate or enumerated on a written document  
14 filed with the department by the medical director for the emergency medical service  
15 and approved by the department under its regulations; [AND]

16 (5) licensure of a mobile intensive care paramedic and the medical  
17 services that a mobile intensive care paramedic may perform, including the

18 (A) educational and other qualifications, which may include  
19 education in pain management and opioid use and addiction;

20 (B) application and licensing procedures;

21 (C) scope of activities authorized; and

22 (D) responsibilities of a supervising or training physician; **and**

23 **(6) authorization for an emergency medical technician certified**  
24 **under this chapter or mobile intensive care paramedic licensed under this**  
25 **chapter to provide to operational canines the emergency medical services**  
26 **enumerated on a written document filed with the department by the medical**  
27 **director and approved by the department in regulation.**

28 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 18.08.086(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) A person certified or licensed under AS 18.08.082 who administers  
30 emergency medical services to an injured or sick person **or who, under AS 18.08.093,**  
31 **administers emergency medical services to an operational canine,** a person or

1 public agency that employs, sponsors, directs, or controls the activities of persons  
 2 certified or licensed under AS 18.08.082 who administer emergency medical services  
 3 to an injured or sick person **or who, under AS 18.08.093, administer emergency**  
 4 **medical services to an operational canine**, or a health care professional or  
 5 emergency medical dispatcher acting within the scope of the person's certification or  
 6 licensure who directs or advises a person to administer emergency medical services to  
 7 an injured or sick person is not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or  
 8 omission in administering those services or giving that advice or those directions if the  
 9 administering, advising, and directing are done in good faith and the injured or sick  
 10 person **or operational canine** reasonably seems to be in immediate danger of serious  
 11 harm or death. This subsection does not preclude liability for civil damages that are  
 12 the proximate result of gross negligence or intentional misconduct, nor preclude  
 13 imposition of liability on a person or public agency that employs, sponsors, directs, or  
 14 controls the activities of persons certified or licensed under AS 18.08.082 if the act or  
 15 omission is a proximate result of a breach of duty to act created under this chapter. In  
 16 this subsection, "gross negligence" means reckless, wilful, or wanton misconduct.

17 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 18.08.087 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 18.08.087. Disclosure of medical records.** When requested for the  
 19 purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician, mobile  
 20 intensive care paramedic, or physician who provided emergency medical care or other  
 21 assistance to a sick or injured person, a licensed physician, advanced practice  
 22 registered nurse, or physician assistant may disclose to an emergency medical  
 23 technician, [A] mobile intensive care paramedic, or physician the medical or hospital  
 24 records of a sick or injured person to whom the paramedic, technician, or physician is  
 25 providing or has rendered emergency medical care or assistance. [HOWEVER, THE  
 26 DISCLOSING PHYSICIAN, ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE, OR  
 27 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SHALL LIMIT DISCLOSURE UNDER THIS SECTION  
 28 TO THE RECORDS THAT ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE  
 29 DISCLOSER FOR EVALUATION OF THE PARAMEDIC'S, TECHNICIAN'S, OR  
 30 PHYSICIAN'S PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
 31 CARE OR ASSISTANCE. A MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE PARAMEDIC,

1 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE TECHNICIAN, OR PHYSICIAN TO WHOM  
 2 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS ARE DISCLOSED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY  
 3 NOT FURTHER DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION TO A PERSON NOT  
 4 ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THAT INFORMATION UNDER THIS SECTION OR  
 5 ANOTHER LAW.]

6 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 18.08.087 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

7 (b) When requested for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an  
 8 emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who provided  
 9 emergency medical care or other assistance to a sick or injured operational canine, a  
 10 licensed veterinarian may disclose to an emergency medical technician or mobile  
 11 intensive care paramedic the medical or hospital records of a sick or injured  
 12 operational canine to whom the technician or paramedic is providing or has rendered  
 13 emergency medical care or assistance.

14 (c) An individual making a disclosure under this section shall limit the  
 15 disclosure to the records that are considered necessary by the discloser for evaluation  
 16 of the technician's, paramedic's, or physician's performance in providing the  
 17 emergency medical care or assistance. An emergency medical care technician, mobile  
 18 intensive care paramedic, physician, or veterinarian to whom confidential records are  
 19 disclosed under this section may not further disclose the information to a person not  
 20 entitled to receive that information under this section or another law.

21 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 18.08 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 **Sec. 18.08.093. Emergency medical services for operational canines.** (a) An  
 23 emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic may provide  
 24 emergency medical services to an operational canine if the emergency medical  
 25 technician or mobile intensive care paramedic

26 (1) reasonably determines that there is an immediate danger of serious  
 27 harm to or death of the operational canine and that a veterinarian is unavailable to  
 28 provide emergency medical services to the operational canine soon enough to address  
 29 the danger;

30 (2) is authorized to provide the emergency medical services to an  
 31 operational canine under AS 18.08.082(a)(6); and

1 (3) meets at least one of the following requirements:

2 (A) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care  
3 paramedic has obtained informed consent from the owner of the operational  
4 canine or a person authorized to make medical decisions about the operational  
5 canine;

6 (B) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care  
7 paramedic is employed by the governmental agency that owns or has authority  
8 to make medical decisions about the operational canine; or

9 (C) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care  
10 paramedic provides the emergency medical service in accordance with a  
11 written protocol developed and approved by a veterinarian.

12 (b) An emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who  
13 provides an emergency medical service to an operational canine under (a) of this  
14 section shall transfer the operational canine to a licensed veterinarian at the earliest  
15 practicable opportunity.

16 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 18.08.100(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) If an individual certified or licensed under this chapter determines in the  
18 course of a telehealth encounter with a patient that some or all of the encounter will  
19 extend beyond the individual's authorized scope of practice, the individual shall advise  
20 the patient that the individual is not authorized to provide some or all of the services to  
21 the patient, recommend that the patient contact an appropriate provider for the services  
22 the individual is not authorized to provide, and limit the encounter to only those  
23 services the individual is authorized to provide. **If the patient is an operational**  
24 **canine, the individual shall provide the advice and recommendation to the person**  
25 **who owns or is authorized to make medical decisions about the operational**  
26 **canine.** The individual certified or licensed under this chapter may not charge for any  
27 portion of an encounter that extends beyond the individual's authorized scope of  
28 practice.

29 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 18.08.200 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

30 (15) "operational canine" means a dog used

31 (A) by law enforcement or other government agencies; or

1 (B) in search and rescue operations;

2 (16) "veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed under AS 08.98.

3 \* **Sec. 10.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.