

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

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/16/25

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; relating to civil liability of  
4 veterinarians; and providing for an 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  
10 AUTHORIZED BY]

11 (1) **functions authorized by** regulation of the board if the person is  
12 licensed as a veterinary technician; [OR]

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

1                   **(3) emergency medical services on an operational canine under**  
 2                   **AS 18.08.093 if the person is certified as an emergency medical technician or**  
 3                   **licensed as a mobile intensive care paramedic.**

4 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 09.65.097 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5                   (c) A veterinarian licensed in this jurisdiction who in good faith receives the  
 6                   transfer of an operational canine under AS 18.08.093(b) is not liable for civil damages  
 7                   as a result of an act or omission of the emergency medical technician or mobile  
 8                   intensive care paramedic who transferred the operational canine to the veterinarian.

9 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 18.08.075(a) is amended to read:

10                   (a) An emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who  
 11                   responds to an emergency with an ambulance service or first responder service, who  
 12                   has in the technician's or mobile intensive care paramedic's possession a current  
 13                   emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic identification card,  
 14                   and who provides emergency medical care or other emergency medical service, has  
 15                   the authority to

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

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

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

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

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

29                   (6) direct the removal or destruction of a motor vehicle or other thing  
 30                   that the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic determines  
 31                   is necessary to prevent further harm to injured or ill individuals **or operational**

1           canines.

2           \* **Sec. 4.** AS 18.08.082(a) is amended to read:

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

6                           (1) certification of a person who meets the training and other  
7                           requirements as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician  
8                           instructor, or emergency medical dispatcher;

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

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

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

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

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

27                                   (B) application and licensing procedures;

28                                   (C) scope of activities authorized; and

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

30                          **(6) authorization for an emergency medical technician certified**  
31                          **under this chapter or mobile intensive care paramedic licensed under this**

1 chapter to provide to operational canines the emergency medical services  
 2 enumerated on a written document filed with the department by the medical  
 3 director and approved by the department in regulation.

4 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 18.08.086(a) is amended to read:

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

24 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 18.08.087 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 18.08.087. Disclosure of medical records.** When requested for the  
 26 purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician, mobile  
 27 intensive care paramedic, or physician who provided emergency medical care or other  
 28 assistance to a sick or injured person, a licensed physician, advanced practice  
 29 registered nurse, or physician assistant may disclose to an emergency medical  
 30 technician, [A] mobile intensive care paramedic, or physician the medical or hospital  
 31 records of a sick or injured person to whom the paramedic, technician, or physician is

1 providing or has rendered emergency medical care or assistance. [HOWEVER, THE  
 2 DISCLOSING PHYSICIAN, ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE, OR  
 3 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SHALL LIMIT DISCLOSURE UNDER THIS SECTION  
 4 TO THE RECORDS THAT ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE  
 5 DISCLOSER FOR EVALUATION OF THE PARAMEDIC'S, TECHNICIAN'S, OR  
 6 PHYSICIAN'S PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
 7 CARE OR ASSISTANCE. A MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE PARAMEDIC,  
 8 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE TECHNICIAN, OR PHYSICIAN TO WHOM  
 9 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS ARE DISCLOSED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY  
 10 NOT FURTHER DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION TO A PERSON NOT  
 11 ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THAT INFORMATION UNDER THIS SECTION OR  
 12 ANOTHER LAW.]

13 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 18.08.087 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

14 (b) When requested for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an  
 15 emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who provided  
 16 emergency medical care or other assistance to a sick or injured operational canine, a  
 17 licensed veterinarian may disclose to an emergency medical technician or mobile  
 18 intensive care paramedic the medical or hospital records of a sick or injured  
 19 operational canine to whom the technician or paramedic is providing or has rendered  
 20 emergency medical care or assistance.

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

28 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 18.08 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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

1 technician or mobile intensive care paramedic

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

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

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

9 (A) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care  
10 paramedic has obtained informed consent from the owner of the operational  
11 canine or a person authorized to make medical decisions about the operational  
12 canine;

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

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

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

23 (c) An emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic may  
24 not provide emergency medical services to an operational canine under (a) of this  
25 section if a person requires emergency medical services from the emergency medical  
26 technician or mobile intensive care paramedic.

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

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

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

30 (B) in search and rescue operations;

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

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