

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE**

May 15, 2025

3:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Forrest Dunbar, Chair  
Senator Cathy Giessel, Vice Chair  
Senator Matt Claman  
Senator Löki Tobin  
Senator Shelley Hughes

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 70 (L&C) AM

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

- MOVED SCS CSHB 70 (HSS) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 70

SHORT TITLE: EMERGENCY MED SVCS; OPERATIONAL CANINES

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) SCHRAGE

01/27/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/27/25	(H)	HSS, L&C
02/18/25	(H)	HSS AT 3:15 PM DAVIS 106
02/18/25	(H)	Heard & Held
02/18/25	(H)	MINUTE (HSS)
03/13/25	(H)	HSS AT 3:15 PM DAVIS 106
03/13/25	(H)	Heard & Held
03/13/25	(H)	MINUTE (HSS)
03/20/25	(H)	HSS AT 3:15 PM DAVIS 106
03/20/25	(H)	Moved CSHB 70 (HSS) Out of Committee
03/20/25	(H)	MINUTE (HSS)
03/21/25	(H)	HSS RPT CS (HSS) 2DP 2DNP 2NR

03/21/25	(H)	DP: FIELDS, MEARS
03/21/25	(H)	DNP: PRAX, SCHWANKE
03/21/25	(H)	NR: RUFFRIDGE, MINA
03/31/25	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/31/25	(H)	Heard & Held
03/31/25	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/02/25	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/02/25	(H)	Heard & Held
04/02/25	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/07/25	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/07/25	(H)	Scheduled but Not Heard
04/09/25	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/09/25	(H)	Moved CSHB 70(L&C) Out of Committee
04/09/25	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/11/25	(H)	L&C RPT CS(L&C) 5DP 2NR
04/11/25	(H)	DP: BURKE, CARRICK, NELSON, HALL, FIELDS
04/11/25	(H)	NR: COULOMBE, SADDLER
04/28/25	(H)	TRANSMITTED TO (S)
04/28/25	(H)	VERSION: CSHB 70(L&C) AM
04/30/25	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/30/25	(S)	HSS, L&C
05/08/25	(S)	HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
05/08/25	(S)	Heard & Held
05/08/25	(S)	MINUTE(HSS)
05/15/25	(S)	HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

**WITNESS REGISTER**

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SCHRAGE, District 12  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 70.

JEREMY HOUSTON, Staff  
Representative Calvin Schrage  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided comment on Amendment 1 to HB 70.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

3:30:49 PM

CHAIR DUNBAR called the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Tobin, Hughes, Giessel, and Chair Dunbar. Senator Claman arrived shortly thereafter.

HB 70-EMERGENCY MED SVCS; OPERATIONAL CANINES

3:31:17 PM

CHAIR DUNBAR announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 70(L&C) am "An Act relating to emergency medical services for operational canines; relating to the powers, duties, and liability of emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; and providing for an effective date."

3:32:04 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SCHRAGE, District 12, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of HB 70 thanked the committee for hearing the bill and for the amendment that was submitted.

3:32:33 PM

SENATOR HUGHES thanked the sponsor and expressed support for HB 70.

3:32:51 PM

CHAIR DUNBAR solicited a motion.

3:32:52 PM

SENATOR GIESSEL moved to adopt Amendment 1, work order 34-LS0245\G.A.1.

34-LS0245\G.A.1  
Gunther  
5/8/25

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR \_\_\_\_\_  
TO: CSHB 70(L&C) am

Page 1, line 3, following "**medicine;**":  
Insert "**relating to civil liability of veterinarians;**"

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

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

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

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

[3:33:04 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR objected for purposes of discussion.

[3:33:12 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL stated Amendment 1 was offered in collaboration with Representative Schrage. She stated she would read the Amendment for public awareness. After reading Amendment 1, she stated she understands the concern about liability on the part of licensed health care professionals and provided an example of the need for civil liability protection.

[3:34:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE stated the Amendment 1 was the result of concerns heard from constituents about unintended consequences of HB 70. The amendment was done in collaboration to address concerns.

[3:35:01 PM](#)

JEREMY HOUSTON, Staff, Representative Calvin Schrage, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, provided insight on Amendment 1. He stated language for Amendment 1 came from similar legislation passed in Ohio.

[3:35:29 PM](#)

SENATOR CLAMAN stated he has been on the defense side of medical malpractice cases and therefore applauds Amendment 1.

[3:35:51 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR removed his objection; found no further objection and Amendment 1 (G.A.1) was adopted.

[3:36:06 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR solicited the will of the committee.

[3:36:08 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved to report CSHB 70(L&C)am, work order 34-LS0245\G.A., as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note(s).

[3:36:27 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR found no objection and SCS CSHB 70(HSS) was reported from the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee.

[3:36:58 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Dunbar adjourned the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting at 3:36 p.m.