

Introduced: 3/8/83
Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and
Labor and Commerce

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON

2

SENATE BILL NO. 164

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to professional licensing and to the
7 regulation of the practice of medicine, and extending
8 the termination date of the State Medical Board."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 08.01.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to
11 read:

12 (c) After consulting with the State Medical Board (AS 08.64.-
13 010), the department shall employ an individual who is not a member of
14 the board to be assigned as the investigator for the board. The
15 investigator shall

16 (1) conduct investigations into alleged violations of
17 AS 08.64, and into alleged violations of regulations and orders of the
18 State Medical Board;

19 (2) at the request of the State Medical Board, conduct
20 investigations based on complaints filed with the department or with
21 the board; and

22 (3) be directly responsible and accountable to the State
23 Medical Board, except that only the department has authority to termi-
24 nate his employment.

25 * Sec. 2. AS 08.03.010(c)(11) is amended to read:

26 (11) State Medical Board (AS 08.64.010) -- June 30, 1987
27 [1983].

28 * Sec. 3. AS 08.64.010 is amended to read:
29 Sec. 08.64.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF STATE MEDICAL BOARD.

1 The governor shall appoint a board of medical examiners, to be known
2 as the State Medical Board, consisting of five [LICENSED] physicians
3 licensed in the state and [,] residing in as many separate geograph-
4 ical areas of the state [ALASKA JUDICIAL DISTRICTS] as possible, and
5 two persons with no direct financial interest in the health care
6 industry.

7 * Sec. 4. AS 08.64.020 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 08.64.020. [STATE MEDICAL BOARD] TERM OF OFFICE. Members
9 shall be appointed for staggered terms [A TERM] of four years, subject
10 to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in
11 joint session, and shall hold office until their successors are ap-
12 pointed and qualified. A person who has served two successive com-
13 plete terms may not be reappointed until four years after the expira-
14 tion of the second term [THE TERMS OF THE PUBLIC MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
15 SHALL BE STAGGERED SO THAT THEY DO NOT EXPIRE AT THE SAME TIME].

16 * Sec. 5. AS 08.64.040 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 08.64.040. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS. The governor may remove a
18 member of the board for cause. The board may by regulation provide
19 that unexcused absences from meetings is cause for removal.

20 * Sec. 6. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:

21 Sec. 08.64.085. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD. The board shall meet at
22 least four times a year.

23 * Sec. 7. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:

24 Sec. 08.64.101. DUTIES. The board shall

25 (1) examine and issue licenses to applicants;

26 (2) submit an annual report of its proceedings to the
27 governor, including a statement of money received and disbursed;

28 (3) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions on per-
29 sons who violate this chapter, or the regulations or orders of the

1 board;

2 (4) adopt regulations insuring that renewal of licenses is
3 contingent upon proof of continued competency on the part of the
4 licensee.

5 * Sec. 8. AS 08.64.170(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) A person may not practice medicine, podiatry, osteopathy, or
7 acupuncture in the state unless the person is licensed under this
8 chapter, except that

9 (1) a physician assistant may examine, diagnose or treat
10 persons under the supervision, control, and responsibility of either a
11 physician licensed under this chapter or a physician exempted from li-
12 censing [LICENSURE] under AS 08.64.370;

13 (2) a physician-trained mobile intensive care paramedic may
14 render emergency lifesaving service; [AND]

15 (3) a person licensed under AS 08.36 may perform acupunc-
16 ture in the regular practice of dentistry, subject to the regulations
17 of the Board of Dental Examiners; and

18 (4) a person who is licensed or authorized under another
19 chapter of this title may engage in a practice that is authorized un-
20 der that chapter.

21 * Sec. 9. AS 08.64.240 is repealed and reenacted to read:

22 Sec. 08.64.240. LICENSE REFUSED. (a) The board may not grant a
23 license if

24 (1) the applicant fails or cheats during the examination;

25 (2) the board determines that the applicant is profes-
26 sionally unfit to practice medicine or osteopathy in the state; or

27 (3) the applicant fails to comply with a requirement of
28 this chapter.

29 (b) The board may refuse to grant a license to any applicant for

1 the same reasons that it may impose disciplinary sanctions under
2 AS 08.64.326.

3 * Sec. 10. AS 08.64.250 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 08.64.250. LICENSE [LICENSURE] BY CREDENTIALS [ENDORSE-
5 MENT]. The board may waive the examination requirement and license by
6 credentials [ENDORSEMENT] if the physician or podiatry applicant meets
7 the requirements of AS 08.64.200 or 08.64.209, submits proof of con-
8 tinued competence as required by regulation, pays the required fee and
9 has

10 (1) an active license from a board of medical examiners
11 established under the laws of a state or territory of the United
12 States or a province of Canada issued after thorough examination; or

13 (2) passed an examination given by the National Board of
14 Medical Examiners or the Federation of State Medical Boards of the
15 United States if the applicant is a physician, or passed an examina-
16 tion given by the National Board of Podiatry Examiners if the appli-
17 cant is a podiatrist.

18 * Sec. 11. AS 08.64.270(a) is amended to read:

19 (a) The board may issue a temporary permit to an applicant who
20 meets the requirements of AS 08.64.200, [OR] 08.64.205, or 08.64.209
21 and pays the required fee.

22 * Sec. 12. AS 08.64.311 is amended to read:

23 Sec. 08.64.311. [BIENNIAL] LICENSE RENEWAL. Licenses shall be
24 renewed four years after the date of issue [BIENNIALY].

25 * Sec. 13. AS 08.64.315 is amended to read:

26 Sec. 08.64.315. FEES. The following fees are imposed under this
27 chapter:

- 28 (1) application \$ 50 [\$25]
29 (2) license by examination 200 [125]

1 (3) license by credentials [ENDORSEMENT]
2 or waiver of examination 200 [100]
3 (4) temporary permit 50 [25]
4 (5) locum tenens permit 50 [25]
5 (6) license renewal [, BIENNIAL], active . . . 600 [100]
6 (7) license renewal [, BIENNIAL], inactive . . . 200 [25]
7 (8) license by reexamination 150 [75]

8 * Sec. 14. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 08.64.326. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-
10 TIONS. (a) The board may impose a sanction if the board finds after
11 a hearing that a licensee

12 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional
13 misrepresentation;

14 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-
15 tion while providing professional services or engaging in professional
16 activities;

17 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-
18 ing manner;

19 (4) has been convicted, including conviction based on a
20 guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere, of

21 (A) a felony or other crime if the felony or other
22 crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions,
23 or duties of the licensee; or

24 (B) a crime involving the unlawful procurement, sale,
25 prescription or dispensing of drugs;

26 (5) has procured, sold, prescribed or dispensed drugs in
27 violation of a law, regardless of whether there has been a criminal
28 action;

29 (6) intentionally or negligently permitted the performance

1 of patient care by persons under the licensee's supervision that does
2 not conform to minimum professional standards even if the patient was
3 not injured;

4 (7) failed to comply with this chapter, a regulation
5 adopted under this chapter, or an order of the board;

6 (8) has demonstrated

7 (A) professional incompetence, gross negligence or re-
8 peated negligent conduct;

9 (B) addiction to, severe dependency on, or habitual
10 overuse of alcohol or other drugs which impairs the licensee's
11 ability to practice safely;

12 (C) unfitness because of physical or mental disabil-
13 ity;

14 (9) engaged in unprofessional conduct or in lewd or immoral
15 conduct in connection with the delivery of professional services to
16 patients;

17 (10) has violated AS 18.16.010;

18 (11) has violated any code of ethics adopted by regulation
19 by the board;

20 (12) has denied care or treatment to a patient or person
21 seeking assistance from the physician if the only reason for the
22 denial is the failure or refusal of the patient to agree to arbitrate
23 as provided in AS 09.55.535(a); or

24 (13) has had a license or certificate to practice medicine
25 in another state, territory of the United States or a province or Can-
26 ada suspended or revoked unless the suspension or revocation was
27 caused by the failure of the licensee to pay fees to that state,
28 territory or province.

29 (b) In a case involving (a)(13) of this section, the final

1 findings of fact, conclusions of law and order of the authority that
2 suspended or revoked a license or certificate constitutes a prima
3 facie case that the license or certificate was suspended or revoked
4 and the grounds under which the suspension or revocation was granted.

5 * Sec. 15. AS 08.64 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 Sec. 08.64.331. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) If the board finds
7 that a licensee has committed an act set out in AS 08.64.326(a), the
8 board may

- 9 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;
10 (2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;
11 (3) censure a licensee;
12 (4) issue a letter of reprimand;
13 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the
14 licensee to

15 (A) report regularly to the board on matters involving
16 the basis of probation;

17 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;

18 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-
19 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas determined
20 by the board to need improvement;

21 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a
22 licensee; or

23 (7) impose one or more of the sanctions set out in (1) -
24 (6) of this subsection.

25 (b) The board may end the probation of a licensee if it finds
26 that the deficiencies which required this sanction have been remedied.

27 (c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final hear-
28 ing or during the appeals process if the board finds that the licensee
29 poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if

1 the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license is sus-
2 pended under this section is entitled to a hearing by the board no
3 later than seven days after the effective date of the order and the
4 person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of compe-
5 tent jurisdiction.

6 (d) The board may reinstate a license that has been suspended or
7 revoked if the board finds after a hearing that the applicant is able
8 to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

9 (e) The board may suspend a license upon receipt of a certified
10 copy of evidence that a license to practice medicine in another state
11 or territory of the United States or province of Canada has been
12 suspended or revoked. The suspension remains in effect until a hear-
13 ing can be held by the board.

14 (f) The board shall be consistent in the application of disci-
15 plinary sanctions. A significant departure from earlier decisions of
16 the board involving similar situations must be explained in findings
17 of fact or orders made by the board.

18 * Sec. 16. AS 08.64.336 is repealed and reenacted to read:

19 Sec. 08.64.336. DUTY OF PHYSICIANS AND HOSPITALS TO REPORT. (a)
20 A physician who professionally treats a person licensed to practice
21 medicine and surgery or osteopathy in this state for alcoholism or
22 drug addiction, or for mental, emotional or personality disorders,
23 shall report it to the board if the physician providing treatment
24 feels that the person may constitute a danger to the health and wel-
25 fare of that person's patients or the public if that person continues
26 in practice. The report shall state the name and address of the person
27 and the condition found.

28 (b) A hospital that restricts or refuses to grant hospital
29 privileges to a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or

1 osteopathy in this state because that person poses a danger to the
2 public shall report to the board the name and address of the person
3 and the reasons for restricting or refusing to grant hospital privi-
4 leges.

5 (c) Upon receipt of a report under (a) or (b) of this section,
6 the board shall investigate the matter and, upon a finding of reason-
7 able cause, may appoint a committee of three qualified physicians to
8 examine the licensee and report their findings to the board.

9 (d) If the board finds that the licensee is unable to continue
10 to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathy with reasonable safety
11 to the licensee's patients or the public, it shall initiate action to
12 suspend, revoke, limit or condition the licensee's license to the
13 extent determined necessary for the protection of the public.

14 * Sec. 17. AS 08.64.360 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 08.64.360. PENALTY FOR PRACTICING WITHOUT A LICENSE OR IN
16 VIOLATION OF CHAPTER. Except for a physician assistant, [AND] a
17 physician-trained mobile intensive care paramedic under AS 08.64.170,
18 or a person licensed or authorized under another chapter of this title
19 who engages in practices for which that person is licensed or autho-
20 rized under that chapter, a person practicing medicine or osteopathy
21 in the state without a valid [OBTAINING AND FILING AN APPROPRIATE]
22 license or permit is guilty of a class B misdemeanor [AND UPON CON-
23 VICTION IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$50 NOR MORE THAN
24 \$100, OR BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT LESS THAN 10 DAYS NOR MORE THAN 90
25 DAYS, OR BY BOTH]. Evidence that the defendant has failed to file a
26 license with the clerk of the court is prima facie evidence that the
27 defendant is not licensed. Each day of illegal practice is a separate
28 offense.

29 * Sec. 18. AS 08.64.380(2) is repealed and reenacted to read:

1 (2) "practice of medicine" or "practice of osteopathy"

2 means:

3 (A) for a fee, donation or other consideration, to
4 diagnose, treat, operate on, prescribe for, or administer to, any
5 human ailment, blemish, deformity, disease, disfigurement, disor-
6 der, injury, or other mental or physical condition; or to attempt
7 to perform or represent that a person is authorized to perform
8 any of the acts set out in this subparagraph;

9 (B) to use or publicly display a title in connection
10 with a person's name including "doctor of medicine," "M.D.," or
11 "doctor of osteopathic medicine" or "D.O." or a specialist desig-
12 nation including "surgeon," "dermatologist," or a similar title,
13 or any title which tends to show that the person is willing or
14 qualified to diagnose or treat the sick or injured;

15 * Sec. 19. AS 08.64.030, 08.64.110, 08.64.140, 08.64.200(1), 08.64.325,
16 08.64.330, and 08.64.380(3) are repealed.