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BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 430 (L&C)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act regulating audiologists, hearing aid dealers
7 and the dispensing of hearing aids."

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

9 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds
10 that the practice of audiology and the dispensing of hearing aids affects
11 the health, safety and welfare of the public and requires regulation and
12 control by the state in the public interest.

13 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish the procedures necessary
14 to ensure that the public is protected from the incompetent, unprofession-
15 al, improper, and unauthorized practice of audiology and dispensing of
16 hearing aids, and to assure the availability of the highest possible quali-
17 ty audiology and hearing aid services for the hearing impaired persons of
18 the state.

19 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

20 (24) regulation of audiologists under AS 08.11;

21 (25) regulation of hearing aid dealers under AS 08.55.

22 * Sec. 3. AS 08.01.050(a) is amended to read:

23 (a) The department shall provide the following administrative
24 and budgetary services when appropriate:

25 (1) collect fees and issue receipts;

26 (2) maintain records and files;

27 (3) issue and receive application forms;

28 (4) notify applicants of acceptance or rejection of appli-
29 cants as determined by the board or as determined by the department

1 under AS 08.11 for audiologists or under AS 08.55 for hearing aid
2 dealers:

3 (5) designate dates examinations are to be held and notify
4 applicants;

5 (6) publish notice of examination;

6 (7) arrange space for holding examinations;

7 (8) notify applicants of results of examinations;

8 (9) issue licenses and certificates or temporary licenses
9 or certificates as authorized by the board or as authorized by the
10 department under AS 08.11 for audiologists or under AS 08.55 for
11 hearing aid dealers:

12 (10) issue duplicate licenses or certificates upon proof by
13 the licensee of loss of the original and payment by the licensee of a
14 fee of \$2 except as otherwise provided in this title;

15 (11) notify licensees of renewal dates at least 30 days
16 before the expiration date of their licenses;

17 (12) compile and maintain current a register of licenses;

18 (13) answer routine inquiries;

19 (14) maintain files relating to individual licensees;

20 (15) arrange for printing and advertising;

21 (16) purchase supplies;

22 (17) employ secretarial help when needed;

23 (18) perform other services that [WHICH] may be requested by
24 the board;

25 (19) provide investigative services to the boards estab-
26 lished under AS 08.04, AS 08.20, AS 08.36, AS 08.64, AS 08.68, AS 08.-
27 70, AS 08.71, AS 08.72, AS 08.80, AS 08.84, and AS 08.86, for the
28 purpose of assisting those boards in matters of professional disci-
29 pline and in responding to consumer complaints.

1 * Sec. 4. AS 08.01.087 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 08.01.087. POWERS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. (a) The
3 department may, upon its own motion, conduct investigations to deter-
4 mine whether a [ANY] person has violated a provision of this chapter
5 or a regulation adopted under it, or a provision of [A CHAPTER IN]
6 this title or regulation adopted under this title dealing with an
7 occupation or board [ONE OF THE BOARDS] listed in AS 08.01.010 [OR A
8 REGULATION ADOPTED BY ONE OF THOSE BOARDS], or to secure information
9 useful in the administration of this chapter.

10 (b) If it appears to the commissioner that a person has engaged
11 in or is about to engage in an act or practice in violation of a
12 provision of this chapter or a regulation adopted under it, or a
13 provision of this title or regulation adopted under this title dealing
14 with an occupation or board [OR ANY OF THE LAWS PERTAINING TO OR
15 REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARDS] listed in AS 08.01.010, the commis-
16 sioner may, if the commissioner considers it in the public interest,
17 and after notification of a proposed order or action by telephone or
18 telegraph to all board members, if a board regulates the act or prac-
19 tice involved, [BY TELEPHONE OR TELEGRAPH OF A PROPOSED ORDER OR
20 ACTION] unless a majority of the members of the board object within 10
21 days,

22 (1) issue an order directing the person to stop the act or
23 practice; however, reasonable notice of and an opportunity for a
24 hearing must first be given to the person, except that the commis-
25 sioner may issue a temporary order before a hearing is held; a tempo-
26 rary order remains in effect until a final order affirming, modifying,
27 or reversing the temporary order is issued or until 15 days after the
28 person receives the notice and has not requested a hearing by that
29 time; a temporary order becomes final if the person to whom the notice

1 is addressed does not request a hearing within 15 days after receiving
2 the notice; the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall be
3 the hearing officer at the hearing and shall issue a final order
4 within 10 days after the hearing;

5 (2) bring an action in the superior court to enjoin the
6 acts or practices and to enforce compliance with this chapter, a
7 regulation adopted under it, [OR] an order issued under it, or with a
8 provision of this title or regulation adopted under this title dealing
9 with an occupation or board [OR ANY OF THE LAWS PERTAINING TO OR
10 REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARDS] listed in AS 08.01.010;

11 (3) examine or have examined the books and records of a
12 [ANY] person whose business activities require licensure by a board
13 listed in AS 08.01.010, or whose occupation is listed in AS 08.01.010;
14 the commissioner [AND HE] may require the [THAT] person to pay the
15 reasonable costs of the examination; and

16 (4) issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses, and
17 the production of books, records and other documents.

18 * Sec. 5. AS 08.01.110 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 08.01.110. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

20 (1) "board" includes the boards and commissions listed in
21 AS 08.01.010;

22 (2) "department" means the Department of Commerce and
23 Economic Development;

24 (3) "commissioner" means the commissioner of commerce and
25 economic development;

26 (4) "license" means a [ANY] license, certificate, permit,
27 or registration or similar evidence of authority issued for an occupa-
28 tion or by one of the boards listed in AS 08.01.010;

29 (5) "licensee" means a [ANY] person who holds a license;

1 (6) "occupation" means a trade or profession [ANY OF THE
2 TRADES OR PROFESSIONS FOR WHICH LICENSURE IS REQUIRED BY ONE OF THE
3 BOARDS] listed in AS 08.01.010.

4 * Sec. 6. AS 08.02.010(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) An audiologist licensed under AS 08.11, a [A] person li-
6 censed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a dentist under
7 AS 08.36, a medical practitioner or osteopath under AS 08.64, a regis-
8 tered nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist under AS 08.72, a regis-
9 tered pharmacist under AS 08.80, a registered physical therapist under
10 AS 08.84, or a psychologist under AS 08.86, shall use as professional
11 identification appropriate letters or a title after that person's name
12 which represents that person's specific field of practice. The letters
13 or title shall appear on all signs, stationery or other advertising in
14 which the person offers or displays personal professional services to
15 the public. In addition, a person engaged in the practice of medicine
16 or osteopathy under AS 08.64.380(2), or a person engaged in any manner
17 in the healing arts who diagnoses, treats, tests, or counsels other
18 persons in relation to human health or disease and uses the letters
19 "M.D." or the title "doctor" or "physician" or another [ANY OTHER]
20 title that [WHICH] tends to show that the person is willing or qual-
21 ified to diagnose, treat, test, or counsel another person, shall
22 clarify the letters or title by adding the appropriate specialist
23 designation, if any, such as "dermatologist", "radiologist", "audio-
24 logist", "naturopath", or the like.

25 * Sec. 7. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

26 CHAPTER 11. AUDIOLOGISTS.

27 Sec. 08.11.010. QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUDIOLOGIST LICENSE. The
28 department shall issue a license to practice audiology to an indi-
29 vidual who

1 (1) is 18 years of age or older;
2 (2) applies on a form provided by the department;
3 (3) pays the fee required under AS 08.11.050;
4 (4) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the department that
5 the person

6 (A) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for
7 imposing disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.11.080;

8 (B) holds a master's degree or doctorate in audiology
9 from an accredited educational institution approved by the de-
10 partment; and either has

11 (i) a Certificate of Clinical Competence in
12 Audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Associa-
13 tion or the equivalent of the certificate; or

14 (ii) practiced audiology for two years as of
15 January 1, 1986, or is in the process of completing the year
16 of supervised clinical experience required for the Certifi-
17 cate of Clinical Competence of the American Speech-Language-
18 Hearing Association.

19 Sec. 08.11.020. TEMPORARY LICENSE TO PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY AS AN
20 AUDIOLOGIST. (a) On receipt of the completed application the depart-
21 ment shall issue a temporary license for the practice of audiology as
22 an audiologist to an individual who is licensed to practice audiology
23 in another state and has submitted to the department an application
24 for a license under AS 08.11.010.

25 (b) The department may issue a temporary license to the follow-
26 ing:

27 (1) a nonresident for the practice of audiology as an
28 audiologist in the state for 30 days or less in a calendar year, if
29 the individual is licensed to practice audiology in another state,

1 territory of the United States, foreign country, or province that has
2 requirements for a license to practice audiology that are substan-
3 tially equivalent to or higher than the requirements of AS 08.11.010;

4 (2) a nonresident for the practice of audiology as an
5 audiologist in the state for 30 days or less in a calendar year, if
6 the individual meets the qualifications and requirements for a license
7 under AS 08.11.010, and resides in a state or territory of the United
8 States or a foreign country or province that does not license indi-
9 viduals to practice audiology.

10 (c) The department may impose by regulation additional limita-
11 tions that it determines appropriate on a temporary license issued
12 under this section.

13 Sec. 08.11.030. DURATION AND RENEWAL OF LICENSE. (a) A license
14 issued under this chapter is subject to renewal every four years on a
15 date set by the department. The department shall renew the license of
16 an individual licensed under this chapter who applies for renewal and
17 pays the renewal fee.

18 (b) If an individual fails to renew a license under (a) of this
19 section, the license lapses.

20 (c) The department may reinstate a lapsed license if the license
21 has lapsed for less than two years and if the individual submits to
22 the department an application for renewal and pays a delinquency fee
23 in addition to the renewal fee.

24 (d) A suspended license is subject to expiration and must be
25 renewed as provided in this section, but the renewal does not entitle
26 the individual while the license remains suspended to practice audiol-
27 ogy or to engage in other activity or conduct that violates the order
28 or judgment that suspended the license.

29 Sec. 08.11.040. DISPLAY OF LICENSE. (a) An individual licensed

1 to practice audiology as an audiologist in the state shall display the
2 license in a prominent place at each place of business of the indi-
3 vidual.

4 (b) If an audiologist has more than one place of business, the
5 department shall, on request and payment of a fee, issue a duplicate
6 license for each place of business of the individual.

7 Sec. 08.11.050. FEES. The department shall set fees under
8 AS 08.01.065 for each of the following:

- 9 (1) application;
- 10 (2) credential review;
- 11 (3) audiologist license;
- 12 (4) temporary license;
- 13 (5) renewal of license;
- 14 (6) delinquency;
- 15 (7) reinstatement;
- 16 (8) duplicate license.

17 Sec. 08.11.070. DEALING IN HEARING AIDS. An audiologist may
18 deal in hearing aids as a hearing aid dealer without being licensed as
19 a hearing aid dealer under AS 08.55, but shall comply with AS 08.55.-
20 050, 08.55.070, 08.55.100, 08.55.110(a), 08.55.110(b)(3) and (c) -
21 (h), and 08.55.130(7) - (13) when dealing in hearing aids.

22 Sec. 08.11.080. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS
23 ON AN AUDIOLOGIST. After a hearing, the department may impose a
24 disciplinary sanction on an audiologist when the department finds that
25 the licensee

- 26 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional
27 misrepresentation;
- 28 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-
29 tion in the course of practicing audiology;

1 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-
2 ing manner;

3 (4) has been convicted of a felony or other crime that
4 affects the person's ability to continue to practice competently and
5 safely;

6 (5) continued to practice audiology after becoming unfit
7 due to

8 (A) professional incompetence;

9 (B) use of drugs or alcohol in a manner that affects
10 the person's ability to practice audiology competently and safe-
11 ly;

12 (C) physical or mental disability;

13 (6) permitted another person to use the licensee's license;

14 (7) employed a person who does not have a valid current
15 license to practice audiology to perform work covered by this chapter;

16 (8) failed to comply with a provision of this chapter or a
17 regulation adopted under this chapter, or an order of the department.

18 Sec. 08.11.090. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) When it finds that
19 an audiologist has committed an act listed in AS 08.11.080, the de-
20 partment may impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

21 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

22 (2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;

23 (3) censure a licensee;

24 (4) issue a letter of reprimand;

25 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the
26 licensee to

27 (A) report regularly to the department on matters
28 involving the basis of probation;

29 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;

1 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-
2 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas determined
3 by the department to need improvement;

4 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a
5 licensee.

6 (b) The department may withdraw a limitation, condition, or
7 probationary status if it finds that the deficiency that required the
8 sanction has been remedied.

9 (c) The department may summarily suspend a license before final
10 hearing or during the appeals process if the department finds that the
11 licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public welfare and
12 safety if the licensee continues to practice. An individual whose
13 license is suspended under this subsection is entitled to a hearing by
14 the department no later than seven days after the effective date of
15 the order. The individual may appeal the suspension after the hearing
16 to the superior court.

17 (d) The department may reinstate a license that has been sus-
18 pended or revoked if the department finds after a hearing that the
19 individual is able to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

20 (e) One year after revocation of a license issued under this
21 chapter, the individual whose license was revoked may reapply for the
22 license. The department may require an examination for reinstatement.

23 Sec. 08.11.100. PROHIBITED ACTS. Unless a person is licensed
24 under this chapter, the person may not

25 (1) practice audiology;

26 (2) use a title indicating or representing that the person
27 practices as an audiologist;

28 (3) advertise that the person practices audiology.

29 Sec. 08.11.110. PENALTY. A person who violates AS 08.11.100 is

1 guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

2 Sec. 08.11.120. EXEMPTIONS. (a) This chapter does not apply to
3 an individual who practices audiology consistent with the accepted
4 standards and code of ethics of the individual's profession as part of
5 the individual's duties as

6 (1) a physician licensed under AS 08.64;

7 (2) an employee of the federal government who is required
8 to practice audiology during the employment, if

9 (A) the employer maintains appropriate supervision of
10 the individual's practice of audiology;

11 (B) the individual practices audiology as part of the
12 duties for which the individual is employed;

13 (C) the individual practices audiology in the facility
14 where the individual is employed or under the supervision of the
15 federal governmental unit where the individual is employed; and

16 (D) the individual does not render or offer to render
17 audiology services to the public for compensation in addition to
18 the salary the individual receives from the federal governmental
19 unit;

20 (3) a student, intern, or resident pursuing a course of
21 study in audiology at an accredited college or a clinical training
22 facility approved by the department, if the activities of the student,
23 intern, or resident constitute part of a supervised course of study
24 and the student, intern, or resident is designated as an "audiology
25 intern," "audiology trainee," or other title approved by the depart-
26 ment that clearly indicates that the person is training to be an
27 audiologist.

28 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter,

29 (1) a nurse licensed under AS 08.68 may perform hearing

1 sensitivity evaluations;

2 (2) an individual licensed as a hearing aid dealer under
3 AS 08.55 may deal in hearing aids;

4 (3) an individual holding a class A certificate issued by
5 the Conference of Executives of American Schools of the Deaf may teach
6 the hearing impaired;

7 (4) an individual may engage in the testing of hearing as
8 part of a hearing conservation program that complies with the regu-
9 lations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the
10 federal government if the individual is certified to do the testing by
11 a state or federal agency acceptable to the Occupational Safety and
12 Health Administration.

13 (c) An individual who is not an audiologist, but who is exempt
14 under this section may not use a title or description stating or
15 implying that the person is an audiologist.

16 (d) An individual exempt under (a)(2) of this section may con-
17 sult with and disseminate research findings and scientific information
18 to accredited academic institutions or governmental agencies, and
19 offer lectures to the public for a fee, monetary or otherwise, without
20 being licensed under this chapter.

21 (e) An individual who is not licensed under this chapter but who
22 teaches the practice of audiology in an audiologist training program
23 at a college or university may use the title "audiologist" but may not
24 practice audiology.

25 Sec. 08.11.130. PROCEDURES. The Administrative Procedure Act
26 (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under this chapter.

27 Sec. 08.11.200. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter, unless the con-
28 text indicates otherwise,

29 (1) "audiologist" means an individual who is licensed under

1 AS 08.11.010 to practice audiology in the state;

2 (2) "dealing in hearing aids" has the meaning given in
3 AS 08.55.200;

4 (3) "department" means the Department of Commerce and
5 Economic Development;

6 (4) "hearing aid" has the meaning given in AS 08.55.200;

7 (5) "practice of audiology" means the application of prin-
8 ciples, methods, and procedures of measurement, testing, appraisal,
9 prediction, consultation, habilitation, rehabilitation, counseling and
10 instruction related to hearing and hearing impairment for the purpose
11 of modifying communicative disorders involving speech, language,
12 auditory function, including auditory training, speech reading and the
13 recommendation, evaluation, fitting, and sale of hearing aids, includ-
14 ing the fitting of ear molds.

15 * Sec. 8. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

16 CHAPTER 55. HEARING AID DEALERS.

17 Sec. 08.55.010. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE. (a) The department
18 shall issue a license to act as a hearing aid dealer to an individual
19 who

20 (1) is 18 years of age or older;

21 (2) applies on a form provided by the department;

22 (3) has a high school diploma or the equivalent;

23 (4) has a business license issued under AS 43.70.020;

24 (5) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the department that
25 the individual has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for impos-
26 ing disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.55.130;

27 (6) submits with the application a statement disclosing
28 whether the applicant

29 (A) has, during the five-year period immediately

1 preceding the date of the application been convicted of a felony,
2 or had a final judgment entered against the applicant in a civil
3 action, if the felony or civil action involved fraud, embezzle-
4 ment, or misappropriation of property;

5 (B) is subject to an injunctive order that is current-
6 ly in effect from a pending proceeding or action brought by a
7 public agency;

8 (C) is a defendant in a pending criminal or civil
9 action relating to fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation of
10 property, or the antitrust or trade regulation laws of the United
11 States or a state;

12 (D) has, during the five-year period immediately
13 preceding the date of the application, been reorganized, had a
14 debt adjustment, or has been adjudicated a bankrupt under bank-
15 ruptcy proceedings due to insolvency or was a principal executive
16 officer or general partner of a business that has been reor-
17 ganized, had a debt adjustment, or has been adjudicated a bank-
18 rupt due to insolvency during the five-year period;

19 (7) furnishes a description of each item in (6) of this
20 subsection that the applicant disclosed as being applicable to the
21 applicant.

22 (b) An individual who is a physician or an audiologist may deal
23 in hearing aids without being licensed under this chapter, but shall
24 comply with AS 08.55.050, 08.55.070, 08.55.100, 08.55.110(a), 08.55.-
25 110(b)(3) and (c) - (h), and 08.55.130(7) - (13) when dealing in
26 hearing aids.

27 (c) If an individual licensed under this chapter has more than,
28 one place of business, the department shall, on request and payment of
29 a fee, issue a duplicate license for each place of business of the

1 individual.

2 Sec. 08.55.020. DURATION AND RENEWAL OF LICENSE. (a) A license
3 to act as a hearing aid dealer is valid for one year and is subject to
4 renewal.

5 (b) On or before the expiration of one year after the issuance
6 of a license under this chapter, a licensee may apply for renewal of
7 the license, and the department shall renew the license if the li-
8 censee pays the renewal fee, has a current business license to act as
9 a hearing aid dealer under AS 43.70.020, and provides evidence satis-
10 factory to the department that the individual has not engaged in
11 conduct that is a ground for imposing disciplinary sanctions under
12 AS 08.55.130.

13 (c) If a licensee fails to renew a license under (b) of this
14 section, the license lapses.

15 (d) The department may reinstate a lapsed license under (b) of
16 this section if the license has not lapsed for more than two years and
17 if the person pays a delinquency fee in addition to the renewal fee.

18 Sec. 08.55.030. BOND REQUIRED. (a) An applicant for a license
19 under AS 08.55.010 shall at the time of applying for the license file
20 with the department a surety bond in the amount of \$5,000 running to
21 the state and conditioned on the applicant's promise to pay all

22 (1) taxes and contributions due the state and political
23 subdivisions of the state;

24 (2) amounts that may be adjudged against the applicant by
25 reason of negligently or improperly dealing in hearing aids or
26 breaching a contract when dealing in hearing aids.

27 (b) In lieu of the surety bond the applicant may file with the
28 department a cash deposit or other negotiable security acceptable to
29 the department in the amount specified for the bond.

1 (c) The bond required by this section remains in effect until
2 cancelled by action of the surety, the principal, or the department.
3 A person may not commence an action on the bond later than three years
4 after cancellation of the bond.

5 Sec. 08.55.040. FEES. The department shall set fees under
6 AS 08.01.065 for each of the following:

- 7 (1) application;
- 8 (2) hearing aid dealer license;
- 9 (3) renewal of license;
- 10 (4) renewal delinquency;
- 11 (5) duplicate license.

12 Sec. 08.55.050. ITEMS TO BE PROVIDED BY HEARING AID DEALER. (a)
13 A hearing aid dealer shall give the following items to a consumer at
14 the time the consumer contracts with the hearing aid dealer to buy or
15 lease a hearing aid:

16 (1) an instructional brochure that contains operating
17 instructions, purchase privileges, and performance data for the hear-
18 ing aid;

19 (2) a statement of the dealer's registration number;

20 (3) a statement of the manufacturer's specifications, make,
21 model, and serial number for the hearing aid;

22 (4) a clear statement of the full terms of the contract;

23 and

24 (5) a written statement indicating that the consumer may
25 file a written complaint about a hearing aid or a hearing aid dealer
26 with the department and giving the mailing address and location ad-
27 dress of the department.

28 (b) Before the sale of a used hearing aid, the hearing aid
29 dealer shall clearly mark the receipt and the container for the

1 hearing aid as "used" or "reconditioned," whichever is applicable, and
2 with the terms of a guarantee that the dealer provides.

3 Sec. 08.55.060. PRIOR MEDICAL EVALUATION. (a) A hearing aid
4 dealer who is not a physician may not sell or lease a hearing aid
5 unless the prospective user of the hearing aid presents to the hearing
6 aid dealer a written statement signed by a physician stating that the
7 physician has evaluated the prospective user's hearing and that the
8 prospective user is a candidate for a hearing aid.

9 (b) The exam on which the physician bases the statement required
10 in (a) of this section must have occurred within the six months
11 immediately preceding the date when the prospective user presents the
12 statement to the hearing aid dispenser.

13 (c) If the prospective user is 18 years of age or older, the
14 hearing aid dealer may afford the prospective user an opportunity to
15 waive in writing the evaluation required by (a) of this section if the
16 hearing aid dealer

17 (1) informs the prospective user that the exercise of the
18 waiver is not in the best interest of the prospective user's health;

19 (2) does not actively encourage the prospective user to
20 waive the evaluation; and

21 (3) affords the prospective user the opportunity to sign
22 the following statement:

23 I have been advised by (HEARING AID DEALER'S NAME)
24 that it would be in my best interest if I had a
25 medical evaluation by a licensed physician (pref-
26 erably a physician who specializes in diseases of
27 the ear) before purchasing or leasing a hearing aid.

28
29 _____
(PROSPECTIVE USER'S SIGNATURE)

1 (d) The hearing aid dealer shall retain the evaluation statement
2 of the physician, or the prospective user's signed waiver statement
3 for four years after the date of the sale of the hearing aid.

4 Sec. 08.55.070. TRANSMITTAL OF HEARING AID BY MAIL. If a hear-
5 ing aid dealer mails a hearing aid to a customer, the dealer shall
6 send the hearing aid by certified mail.

7 Sec. 08.55.080. COMPLAINTS. (a) A person may file a complaint
8 with the department about a hearing aid or a hearing aid dealer within
9 three years from the date of the cause of the complaint.

10 (b) A hearing aid dealer shall prominently display in the busi-
11 ness establishment of the dealer a sign indicating that a person may
12 file a complaint with the department about a hearing aid or a hearing
13 aid dealer and giving the mailing and location address of the depart-
14 ment.

15 Sec. 08.55.100. CALIBRATION REQUIREMENTS. A hearing aid dealer
16 shall maintain in conformity with the standards set by the American
17 National Standard Institute the calibration of each audiometer used by
18 the hearing aid dispenser, and shall keep a record of the results of
19 the annual calibration of each audiometer used by the dealer.

20 Sec. 08.55.110. CANCELLATION OPTION. (a) In addition to the
21 cancellation allowed under AS 45.02.350, a person who has purchased or
22 leased a hearing aid from a hearing aid dealer may cancel the sale or
23 lease as provided under (b) of this section or by giving written
24 notice of the intention to cancel the sale or lease to the dealer not
25 later than 30 days following the later of (1) the date the person
26 receives the hearing aid, or (2) the date the hearing aid dealer
27 provides the person with the notice under (c) of this section. The
28 person may use the notice received under (c) of this section to cancel
29 the sale or lease by signing the form where indicated.

1 (b) In addition to the other rights and remedies the purchaser
2 or lessee of a hearing aid may have, the purchaser or lessee of a
3 hearing aid has the right to cancel the sale or lease by giving writ-
4 ten notice of the cancellation to the hearing aid dealer if

5 (1) the hearing aid dealer is not a physician or an audio-
6 logist, and within 60 days from the receipt by the purchaser or lessee
7 of the hearing aid or the notice to be provided under (c) of this
8 section, whichever receipt is later, a physician or an audiologist
9 advises the person in writing to cancel the sale or lease and speci-
10 fies in writing the medical or audiological reason for the advice; or

11 (2) the hearing aid dealer, if not a physician or audio-
12 logist, has violated a provision of this chapter in the sale or lease
13 of the hearing aid to the person;

14 (3) the hearing aid dealer who is a physician or audio-
15 logist has violated (a) or (c) - (h) of this section or AS 08.55.050,
16 08.55.070, 08.55.100, or 08.55.130(7) - (13) in the sale or lease of
17 the hearing aid to the person.

18 (c) A hearing aid dealer shall give a person who has purchased
19 or leased a hearing aid from the dealer notice of the right to cancel
20 the purchase or lease that is substantially identical to the following
21 form with all of the information filled in except the signature and
22 date lines for the purchaser or lessee:

23 NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CANCEL

24 _____
25 Name of Hearing Aid Dealer

26 _____
27 Address of Hearing Aid Dealer

28 _____
29 Date of Sale or Lease

1 You may cancel this transaction within 30
2 days from the date you receive the hearing aid
3 or this notice, whichever is later.

4 You may also cancel this transaction within
5 60 days from the date you receive the hearing aid
6 or this notice, whichever is later, if the hearing
7 aid dealer is not a licensed physician or a licensed
8 audiologist and if a licensed physician or a
9 licensed audiologist advises you in writing to
10 cancel this transaction.

11 If you cancel this transaction, the property
12 you traded in, the payments you made under the
13 sale or lease (less certain costs allowed by state
14 law) and any negotiable instrument executed by you
15 will be returned within 20 days following receipt
16 by the hearing aid dealer of your cancellation
17 notice, and the hearing aid dealer will cancel any
18 security interest arising out of the sale or lease.

19 If you cancel, you must make available to the
20 hearing aid dealer, in as good a condition as when
21 received, less normal wear and tear, the goods
22 delivered to you under this sale or lease, unless
23 the dealer notifies you to keep the goods or to
24 hold them until the dealer collects them.

25 If the goods have been damaged, the hearing aid
26 dealer may deduct from any refund due you the reasonable
27 costs incurred in repairing the goods to make them
28 suitable for resale. If the goods have been damaged
29 beyond repair, you are liable for the full purchase

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price, even if you are just leasing the goods.

If you make the goods available for the hearing aid dealer to collect after your cancellation, and within 20 days of receiving your cancellation the hearing aid dealer does not collect them from you or provide you with instructions for returning the goods by mail, you may retain or dispose of the goods without further obligation to the hearing aid dealer.

If you fail to make the goods available for the hearing aid dealer to collect after your cancellation, then the sale or lease is not cancelled and you remain liable for performance of the obligations of the sale or lease.

To cancel this transaction, mail (by certified mail, return receipt requested) or deliver a signed and dated copy of this notice or another written notice to (name of hearing aid dealer), at (address of hearing aid dealer's place of business) and (hearing aid dealer's telephone number) no later than midnight of (Date).

I hereby cancel this transaction.

(Date) _____

(Purchaser's or Lessee's signature)

I have read and understand the terms of cancellation of this purchase/lease.

Purchaser's or Lessee's signature

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Date

(d) If a purchaser or lessee of a hearing aid cancels the purchase or lease under (a) or (b) of this section, the hearing aid dealer shall within 20 days of receipt of a notice of the cancellation

(1) refund to the purchaser or lessee all deposits, including the downpayment, less (A) 10 percent of the total purchase price for each 30 days that the purchaser or lessee had the hearing aid, to pay for the reasonable rental value of the hearing aid; (B) the reasonable price of ear molds or custom casings prepared for the purchaser or lessee; and (C) the reasonable costs actually incurred by the hearing aid dealer to make goods that were traded in by the purchaser or lessee ready for sale; the hearing aid dealer may retain the money allowed under this paragraph only up to the amount of a downpayment made by the purchaser or lessee;

(2) return to the purchaser or lessee all goods traded in to the hearing aid dealer as part of the sale or lease;

(3) return to the purchaser or lessee a negotiable instrument signed by the purchaser or lessee; and

(4) cancel a security interest taken by the hearing aid dealer for the purchase or lease.

(e) If the hearing aid returned by the purchaser or lessee has been damaged, the hearing aid dealer may deduct from any refund due the purchaser or lessee the reasonable costs incurred in repairs necessary to make the hearing aid suitable for resale. If the hearing aid is damaged beyond repair, the purchaser or lessee is liable for the full purchase price.

(f) The purchaser or lessee may retain or dispose of the hearing aid if within 20 days of receipt of the notice of cancellation, the hearing aid dealer fails

1 (1) to collect the hearing aid from the purchaser or
2 lessee; or

3 (2) to provide the purchaser or lessee with instructions
4 for returning the hearing aid by mail.

5 (g) If a purchaser or lessee of a hearing aid fails to make the
6 hearing aid available for the hearing aid dealer to collect, the
7 purchaser or lessee remains liable for the purchase or lease.

8 (h) To give written notice under this section, a person shall
9 deliver the notice to the hearing aid dealer in person or to the place
10 of business of the dealer, or mail the notice to the place of business
11 of the dealer by certified mail, return receipt requested.

12 Sec. 08.55.120. TESTING OF HEARING. (a) A hearing aid dealer
13 may take threshold measurements to determine the need for a hearing
14 aid, but may not perform diagnostic procedures to determine the cause
15 of a hearing impairment or charge a fee for a hearing measurement.

16 (b) A hearing aid dealer shall include in every printed
17 advertisement for the services of the dealer the following statement
18 bordered in black:

19 Alaska law permits a hearing aid dealer who is not a li-
20 censed physician or a licensed audiologist to test hearing
21 only for the purpose of selling or leasing hearing aids;
22 the tests given by a hearing aid dealer are not to be
23 used to diagnose the cause of a hearing impairment.

24 Sec. 08.55.130. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-
25 TIONS. After a hearing, the department may impose a disciplinary
26 sanction on an individual licensed under this chapter when the depart-
27 ment finds that the person

28 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional
29 misrepresentation;

- 1 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-
2 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in
3 professional activities;
- 4 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-
5 ing manner;
- 6 (4) has been convicted of a felony or other crime that
7 affects the individual's ability to continue to practice competently
8 and safely;
- 9 (5) failed to comply with a provision of this chapter or a
10 regulation adopted under this chapter, or an order of the department;
- 11 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to
- 12 (A) professional incompetence;
- 13 (B) addiction to or severe dependency on alcohol or
14 another drug that impairs the individual's ability to practice
15 safely;
- 16 (C) physical or mental disability;
- 17 (7) employed a person who did not have a valid current
18 license to deal in hearing aids to perform work covered by this chap-
19 ter;
- 20 (8) failed or refused to honor a representation, promise,
21 agreement or warranty made by the person while dealing in hearing
22 aids;
- 23 (9) advertised a model, type, or kind of hearing aid for
24 sale that the person does not sell;
- 25 (10) failed to maintain a business address and telephone
26 number at which the individual could normally be reached during regu-
27 lar business hours;
- 28 (11) included in a contract or receipt for the purchase or
29 lease of a hearing aid a confession of judgment or a waiver of a right

1 of the consumer under this chapter;

2 (12) used undue influence, coercion, or other wilful act or
3 representation to interfere with the exercise by the consumer of the
4 rights provided in this chapter;

5 (13) negotiated, transferred, sold, or assigned a note or
6 other evidence of indebtedness to a finance company or other third
7 party within two months of delivering a hearing aid to a purchaser or
8 lessee of the hearing aid by mail or in person;

9 (14) permitted another person to use the licensee's license;

10 (15) dealt in hearing aids while suffering from a serious
11 disease that was contagious or infectious.

12 Sec. 08.55.140. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) When it finds that
13 a licensee has committed an act listed in AS 08.55.130, the department
14 may impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

15 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

16 (2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;

17 (3) censure a licensee;

18 (4) issue a letter of reprimand;

19 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the
20 licensee to

21 (A) report regularly to the department on matters
22 involving the basis of probation;

23 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;

24 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-
25 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas determined
26 by the department to need improvement;

27 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a
28 licensee.

29 (b) The department may withdraw a limitation, condition, or

1 probationary status if it finds that the deficiency that required the
2 sanction has been remedied.

3 (c) The department may summarily suspend a license before final
4 hearing or during the appeals process if the department finds that the
5 licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public welfare and
6 safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license
7 is suspended under this subsection is entitled to a hearing by the de-
8 partment no later than seven days after the effective date of the
9 order. The person may appeal the suspension after the hearing to the
10 superior court.

11 (d) The department may reinstate a license that has been sus-
12 pended or revoked if the department finds after a hearing that the
13 applicant is able to deal in hearing aids with reasonable skill and
14 safety.

15 Sec. 08.55.150. PROHIBITED ACTS. (a) Unless a person is li-
16 censed under this chapter or AS 08.11, the person may not

17 (1) deal in hearing aids;

18 (2) use a title indicating or representing that the person
19 deals in hearing aids or is licensed to deal in hearing aids;

20 (3) advertise that the person deals in hearing aids.

21 (b) A person may not

22 (1) sell, barter, or offer to sell or barter a license
23 issued under this chapter;

24 (2) purchase or obtain by barter a license issued under
25 this chapter with the intent to use it as evidence of the holder's
26 qualification to deal in hearing aids;

27 (3) materially alter a license issued under this chapter
28 with fraudulent intent;

29 (4) use or attempt to use as valid a license to deal in

1 hearing aids that has been purchased, fraudulently obtained, counter-
2 feited, or materially altered.

3 Sec. 08.55.160. PENALTY. A person who violates AS 08.55.150 is
4 guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

5 Sec. 08.55.170. NOTICE OF PLACE OF BUSINESS. A person who holds
6 a license under this chapter shall notify the department in writing of
7 the regular address of the place or places where the person deals or
8 intends to deal in hearing aids.

9 Sec. 08.55.180. PROCEDURES. The Administrative Procedure Act
10 (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under this chapter.

11 Sec. 08.55.200. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

12 (1) "audiologist" means an individual licensed as an audio-
13 logist under AS 08.11;

14 (2) "dealing in hearing aids" means the sale or lease, or
15 attempted sale or lease of hearing aids, and the recommendation,
16 selection, fitting, or adaptation of hearing aids;

17 (3) "department" means the Department of Commerce and
18 Economic Development;

19 (4) "hearing aid" means a prosthetic instrument or device
20 designed for or represented as aiding, improving, or correcting defec-
21 tive human hearing and the parts, attachments, or accessories of the
22 instrument or device; "hearing aid" does not include cochlear im-
23 plants, middle-ear implants, vibro-tactile speech-reading aids, other
24 aids for cued speech, or group or individual auditory training units
25 and assistive devices;

26 (5) "hearing aid dealer" means an individual licensed under
27 AS 08.55.010;

28 (6) "physician" means a person licensed as a physician
29 under AS 08.64.

1 * Sec. 9. AS 09.55.560(1) is amended to read:

2 (1) "health care provider" means an audiologist licensed
3 under AS 08.11; a chiropractor licensed under AS 08.20; a dental
4 hygienist licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist licensed under AS 08.36;
5 a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing optician licensed under
6 AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under AS 08.72; a pharmacist li-
7 censed under AS 08.80; a physical therapist licensed under AS 08.84; a
8 physician licensed under AS 08.64; a podiatrist; a psychologist and a
9 psychological associate licensed under AS 08.86; and a hospital as
10 defined in AS 18.20.130, including a governmentally owned or operated
11 hospital; a corporate entity covered under AS 21.88.050(b)(12); and an
12 employee of a health care provider acting within the course and scope
13 of employment;

14 * Sec. 10. AS 21.88.900(a)(9) is amended to read:

15 (9) "health care provider" means an audiologist licensed
16 under AS 08.11; a chiropractor licensed under AS 08.20; a dental
17 hygienist licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist licensed under AS 08.36;
18 a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing optician licensed under
19 AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under AS 08.72; a pharmacist li-
20 censed under AS 08.80; a physical therapist licensed under AS 08.84; a
21 physician licensed under AS 08.64; a podiatrist; a psychologist and a
22 psychological associate licensed under AS 08.86; a hospital as defined
23 in AS 18.20.130, including a governmentally owned or operated hospi-
24 tal; a corporate entity covered under AS 21.88.050(b)(11); an employee
25 of a health care provider acting within the course and scope of em-
26 ployment;

27 * Sec. 11. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

28 (53) Department of Commerce and Economic Development con-
29 cerning the licensing and regulation of audiologists (AS 08.11);

1 (54) Department of Commerce and Economic Development con-
2 cerning the licensing and regulation of hearing aid dealers (AS 08.-
3 55).

4 * Sec. 12. AS 45.50.471(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to
5 read:

6 (27) dealing in hearing aids and failing to comply with
7 AS 08.55.

8 * Sec. 13. AS 45.50.561 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

9 (10) "dealing in hearing aids" has the meaning given in
10 AS 08.55.200;

11 (11) "hearing aid" has the meaning given in AS 08.55.200.

12 * Sec. 14. AS 47.17.070(9) is amended to read:

13 (9) "practitioner of the healing arts" includes chiroprac-
14 tors, dental hygienists, dentists, health aides, nurses, nurse practi-
15 tioners, optometrists, osteopaths, physical therapists, physicians,
16 physician's assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychological
17 associates, audiologists licensed under AS 08.11, hearing aid dealers
18 licensed under AS 08.55, religious healing practitioners, and
19 surgeons;