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Version #3  
Bannister  
4/1/86

Original sponsor: Pignalberi

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 424 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Board of Behavioral Science;  
7 regulating marital and family therapists; amending  
8 Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence; and provid-  
9 ing for an effective date."

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

11 \* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds  
12 that the practice of the marital and family therapy profession affects the  
13 safety and welfare of the public and requires regulation and control by the  
14 state in the public interest.

15 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish a regulatory board and  
16 procedures to ensure that the public is protected from the unprofessional,  
17 improper, and unauthorized practice of the marital and family therapy  
18 profession. This Act shall be liberally construed to carry out this  
19 purpose.

20 \* Sec. 2. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21 CHAPTER 15. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS.

22 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE.

23 Sec. 08.15.010. BOARD ESTABLISHED. There is established a Board  
24 of Behavioral Science.

25 Sec. 08.15.020. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The board consists of two  
26 persons from the behavioral science profession regulated by the board  
27 and one member of the public.

28 (b) Each professional member must

29 (1) be licensed in the behavioral science profession

1 (2) for the four years immediately preceding appointment,  
2 have been engaged in the active practice of the behavioral science  
3 profession corresponding to the board position to which the person is  
4 being appointed.

5 Sec. 08.15.030 BOARD APPOINTMENTS. (a) The governor shall  
6 appoint the members of the board subject to confirmation by the legis-  
7 lature for staggered terms of three years.

8 (b) The governor may not appoint the same person more than once  
9 to fill an unexpired term on the board. A person may not serve as a  
10 member of the board for more than two consecutive terms.

11 Sec. 08.15.035. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may  
12 remove a member of the board for good cause, including:

- 13 (1) neglect of duty;  
14 (2) incompetence;  
15 (3) prolonged illness that impairs the execution of board  
16 duties;  
17 (4) unprofessional conduct;  
18 (5) conviction of a felony;  
19 (6) judgment impaired by the use of alcohol or another  
20 drug;  
21 (7) unexcused absences from board meetings;  
22 (8) conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude;  
23 (9) an emotional disturbance that prevents the member from  
24 carrying out board duties;  
25 (10) addiction or dependence on alcohol or another drug.

26 Sec. 08.15.040. MEETINGS. (a) In addition to the meeting  
27 required by AS 08.01.0 (3), the board may hold additional meetings at  
28 the call of the chairperson or a majority of the board members.

29 (b) The board may hold by teleconference the additional meetings

1 allowed under (a) of this section.

2 Sec. 08.15.050. POWERS OF THE BOARD. The board may

3 (1) examine applicants and issue licenses to qualified  
4 applicants;

5 (2) place specialty designations on the licenses of appli-  
6 cants who meet the standards determined by the board for specialty  
7 designation;

8 (3) establish continuing education requirements for license  
9 renewal, after consulting with the standards committee for the behav-  
10 ioral science profession for which the continuing education require-  
11 ments are established;

12 (4) hold hearings, and order the disciplinary sanction of a  
13 person who violates this chapter or a regulation of the board;

14 (5) report annually to the governor and the department on  
15 the board's proceedings;

16 (6) perform the administrative duties required by AS 08.-  
17 01.070;

18 (7) establish standards for supervisors and supervision;

19 (8) adopt by regulation a code of ethics for each behav-  
20 ioral science profession regulated by the board;

21 (9) enforce the provisions of this chapter and adopt regu-  
22 lations necessary to implement this chapter.

23 Sec. 08.15.060. STANDARDS COMMITTEES. (a) The board shall ap-  
24 point a standards committee for each behavioral science profession  
25 that it regulates, comprised of one board member from the behavioral  
26 science profession and the public member of the board.

27 (b) Each standards committee may advise the board about the  
28 licensing and regulation of the behavioral science profession that is  
29 the subject of that standards committee and may make recommendations

1 to the board on the following items for the profession:

- 2 (1) the granting of licenses;
- 3 (2) the examination for licensure;
- 4 (3) the grading of examinations;
- 5 (4) regulation changes;
- 6 (5) initiation of investigations or disciplinary proceed-
- 7 ings;
- 8 (6) penalties for violations of this chapter;
- 9 (7) licensure guidelines or criteria for licensure;
- 10 (8) supervision requirements; and
- 11 (9) continuing education requirements for license renewal.

12 (c) Each standards committee may act as a liaison between the

13 board and educational institutions and perform other functions that

14 the board requests.

15 (d) A recommendation of a standards committee is not final until

16 the board approves the recommendation.

17 (e) A decision of the board relating to a behavioral science

18 profession regulated by the board is not effective unless it is ap-

19 proved by the members of the standards committee for the behavioral

20 science profession.

21 Sec. 08.15.070. PROCEDURES. The Administrative Procedure Act

22 (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and to board proceedings, but only

23 AS 44.62.310 - 44.62.312 apply to standards committee proceedings.

24 ARTICLE 2. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

25 Sec. 08.15.110. QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION. (a) An appli-

26 cant for the marital and family therapist examination shall furnish

27 evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant

28 (1) has a master's degree or doctorate from an accredited

29 educational institution approved by the board, or the person has

1 completed a course of study that meets the requirements of the Ameri-  
2 can Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;

3 (2) after satisfying (1) of this subsection, has

4 (A) practiced marital and family therapy within the  
5 three years immediately preceding the application for the number  
6 of hours of direct clinical contact required by the American  
7 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; and

8 (B) received in the clinical contact required by (A)  
9 of this paragraph under supervisors approved by the board the  
10 individual and group supervision required by the American Asso-  
11 ciation for Marriage and Family Therapy.

12 (b) The board may not allow an applicant who fails an examina-  
13 tion given under this section to take a subsequent examination for a  
14 period of six months from the date of the examination that the appli-  
15 cant failed.

16 Sec. 08.15.120. APPROVED SUPERVISORS. (a) Except for super-  
17 vision required to satisfy AS 08.15.110(a)(1), a person may not super-  
18 vise a person in the practice of marital and family therapy unless the  
19 person is approved by the board.

20 (b) The board shall approve as a supervisor a person who

21 (1) applies to the board for the approval;

22 (2) is licensed under this chapter to practice marital and  
23 family therapy.

24 (c) Notwithstanding (b) of this section, the board shall approve  
25 as a supervisor a member of a mental health profession other than the  
26 marital and family therapy profession if the person meets the criteria  
27 established by the board for approval of a member of another mental  
28 health profession as a supervisor.

29 (d) The board may cancel its approval of a person as a

1 supervisor if the person commits an act listed in AS 08.15.960, fails  
2 to satisfy the continuing education requirements established by the  
3 board for supervisors under AS 08.15.050(3), or otherwise violates a  
4 provision of this chapter.

5 (e) A person providing supervision under this section is respon-  
6 sible for ensuring that the extent, kind, and quality of services  
7 performed by the person being supervised are consistent with the  
8 training and experience of that person.

9 Sec. 08.15.130. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. A person licensed as a  
10 marital and family therapist may assess, diagnose and treat mental and  
11 emotional disorders that are referenced in the standard diagnostic  
12 nomenclature for marital and family therapy, whether cognitive, affec-  
13 tive, or behavioral, within the context of human relationships, par-  
14 ticularly marital and family systems. Marital and family therapy  
15 involves rendering or offering to render for a fee

16 (1) an applied understanding of the dynamics of marital and  
17 family interactions, along with the application of psychotherapeutic  
18 and counseling techniques for the purpose of resolving intrapersonal  
19 and interpersonal conflict and changing perceptions, attitudes, and  
20 behaviors in the area of human relationships and family life; and

21 (2) the professional application of assessments and treat-  
22 ments of psychotherapeutic services to individuals, couples, or fam-  
23 ilies for the purpose of treating the diagnosed emotional and mental  
24 disorders.

25 Sec. 08.15.140. USE OF TITLE. (a) Unless licensed as a marital  
26 and family therapist under this chapter, a person may not use the  
27 title "marital and family therapist" or a title, designation, or  
28 device indicating or suggesting that the person is a marital and  
29 family therapist.

1 device indicating or suggesting that the person is a marital and  
2 family therapist.

3 (b) A person who has satisfied the requirement of AS 08.15.-  
4 110(a)(1) shall use the title "marital and family therapy associate",  
5 or other title that is approved by the board, while practicing marital  
6 and family therapy under AS 08.15.110(a)(2).

7 ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

8 Sec. 08.15.910. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION. The board shall issue a  
9 license to practice a behavioral science profession to an individual  
10 who

11 (1) applies on a form provided by the department;

12 (2) pays the fee established by the department under  
13 AS 08.01.065; and

14 (3) passes the written examination administered by the  
15 department on behalf of the board.

16 Sec. 08.15.920. TEMPORARY LICENSE. (a) The board shall issue a  
17 temporary license to an individual who satisfies the requirements for  
18 a permanent license, except for taking the examination, and who has  
19 been approved by the board to take the examination.

20 (b) An individual may practice under a temporary license until  
21 the board issues the results of the first examination given after  
22 issuance of the person's temporary license and either issues or denies  
23 a permanent license to the individual.

24 (c) If a licensee under this section does not take the next  
25 examination given after the issuance of the temporary license, the  
26 board may renew the licensee's temporary license until the board  
27 issues the results of the next examination, if the licensee provides  
28 satisfactory proof to the board that the licensee had good cause for  
29 not taking the examination.

1           Sec. 08.15.930. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall, with-  
2 out examination, issue a license to practice a behavioral science  
3 profession to an individual who

4           (1) has an active license as a behavioral science profes-  
5 sional in another state that has requirements for the license or  
6 certificate that are substantially equal to or greater than the re-  
7 quirements of this state;

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

9           (3) pays the fee established by the department under AS 08.-  
10 01.065; and

11           (4) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the  
12 individual

13           (A) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for  
14 disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.15.960;

15           (B) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,  
16 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding relating to the  
17 behavioral science profession of the individual undertaken by a  
18 professional association or regulatory authority;

19           (C) has not failed the examination of this state for  
20 the behavioral science profession; or

21           (D) has not previously had a license to practice  
22 revoked by this state or another jurisdiction.

23           Sec. 08.15.940. RENEWAL OF LICENSE. A license issued under this  
24 chapter expires two years from the date of issue. A license may be  
25 renewed by payment of the fee required by AS 08.01.065 and by satis-  
26 faction of the continuing education requirements established by the  
27 board for the renewal of the license.

28           Sec. 08.15.950. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A behavioral  
29 science professional licensed under this chapter may not disclose

1 information provided to the licensee by a client in the course of  
2 their professional contact. This prohibition does not apply if the

3 (1) client provides written consent to the licensee to  
4 reveal the communication;

5 (2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal  
6 representative provides written consent to the licensee to reveal the  
7 communication;

8 (3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy  
9 on the client's life provides written consent to the licensee to  
10 reveal the communication;

11 (4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed  
12 or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

13 (5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the  
14 client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the licensee  
15 reveals the communication only during the course of an official ex-  
16 amination, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the  
17 crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

18 (6) client brings charges against the licensee and the  
19 licensee reveals the communication only as necessary to defend the  
20 charges;

21 (7) licensee is subpoenaed to testify in court;

22 (8) licensee is collaborating or consulting with profes-  
23 sional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the  
24 client;

25 (9) communication discloses information that the licensee  
26 is required by state or federal law or regulation to disclose.

27 Sec. 08.15.960. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-  
28 TIONS. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction  
29 on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the

1 person

2 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional  
3 misrepresentation;

4 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-  
5 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in  
6 professional activities;

7 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-  
8 ing manner;

9 (4) has been convicted of a crime that has a substantial  
10 relationship to the licensee's activities and services or that affects  
11 the person's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

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

14 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

15 (A) professional incompetence;

16 (B) addiction or dependence on alcohol or another drug  
17 that may endanger the public by impairing the person's ability to  
18 practice;

19 (C) physical or mental disability;

20 (7) engaged in lewd or immoral conduct in connection with  
21 the delivery of professional services;

22 (8) had a license to practice in another jurisdiction  
23 suspended or revoked for any reason except a fee dispute;

24 (9) has violated a code of ethics adopted by board regula-  
25 tion for the behavioral science profession for which the person is  
26 licensed.

27 Sec. 08.15.970. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) When it finds that  
28 a licensee has committed an act listed in AS 08.15.960, the board may  
29 impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

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

7 (A) report regularly to the board on matters involving  
8 the basis of probation;

9 (B) limit practice to prescribed areas;

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

13 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a  
14 licensee.

15 (b) The board may withdraw a limitation, condition, or proba-  
16 tionary status if it finds that the deficiency that required the  
17 sanction has been remedied.

18 (c) The board shall seek consistency in the application of  
19 disciplinary sanctions, and the board shall explain in its findings of  
20 fact or orders a significant departure from prior decisions involving  
21 similar situations.

22 Sec. 08.15.980. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTY. (a) A person may  
23 not

24 (1) practice a behavioral science profession regulated by  
25 this chapter for which the person is not licensed under this chapter;

26 (2) use a title prohibited to the person under AS 08.15.140  
27 or indicating or representing that the person practices or is licensed  
28 to practice a behavioral science profession regulated by this chapter  
29 for which the person is not licensed under this chapter;

1           (3) advertise that the person practices a behavioral sci-  
2           ence profession regulated by this chapter for which the person is not  
3           licensed under this chapter.

4           (b) A person who violates (a) of this section is guilty of a  
5           class B misdemeanor.

6           Sec. 08.15.985. EXEMPTIONS. (a) This chapter does not apply to  
7           a person who practices a behavioral science profession regulated by  
8           this chapter

9           (1) consistent with the accepted standards and code of  
10          ethics of the person's profession and as part of the person's duties  
11          as

12                   (A) a psychologist or psychological associate;

13                   (B) a physician or psychiatrist;

14                   (C) an attorney or judge;

15                   (D) a member of the clergy;

16                   (E) a student, intern, or resident pursuing a course  
17          of study approved by the board as appropriate training for a  
18          behavioral science profession regulated by the board, if the  
19          activities of the student, intern, or resident constitute a part  
20          of a supervised course of study and the student, intern, or  
21          resident is designated by a title that indicates that the person  
22          is training to be a behavioral science professional;

23                   (2) in a community of less than 6,000 persons; or

24                   (3) for a nonprofit health organization.

25          (b) In this section,

26                   (1) "community" means a municipality or an unincorporated  
27          group of individuals residing in the same geographic area as a social  
28          unit;

29                   (2) "nonprofit" organization means an association of

1 persons where no part of the income or profit of the organization is  
2 distributable to the members, except as reimbursement for expenses  
3 incurred by a member on behalf of the organization; "nonprofit" organ-  
4 ization includes a corporation organized under AS 10.20 and a corpora-  
5 tion that is exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501 from payment of federal income  
6 tax.

7 Sec. 08.15.990. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

8 (1) "advertise" includes issuing or causing to be dis-  
9 tributed a card, sign or device to a person, or causing, permitting or  
10 allowing a sign or marking on or in a building or structure, or in a  
11 newspaper, magazine, or directory, or on radio or television, or using  
12 other means designed to secure public attention;

13 (2) "behavioral science professional" means a marriage and  
14 family therapist;

15 (3) "board" means the Board of Behavioral Science;

16 (4) "supervision" means face-to-face consultation, direc-  
17 tion, review, evaluation and assessment of the practice of the person  
18 being supervised, including direct observation and the review of case  
19 presentations, audio tapes and video tapes.

20 \* Sec. 3. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

21 (24) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010).

22 \* Sec. 4. 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;

1 (5) designate dates examinations are to be held and notify  
2 applicants;

3 (6) publish notice of examination;

4 (7) arrange space for holding examinations;

5 (8) notify applicants of results of examinations;

6 (9) issue licenses and certificates or temporary licenses  
7 or certificates as authorized by the board;

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

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

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

14 (13) answer routine inquiries;

15 (14) maintain files relating to individual licensees;

16 (15) arrange for printing and advertising;

17 (16) purchase supplies;

18 (17) employ secretarial help when needed;

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

21 (19) provide investigative services to the boards estab-  
22 lished under AS 08.04, AS 08.15, AS 08.20, AS 08.36, AS 08.64, AS 08.-  
23 68, AS 08.70, AS 08.71, AS 08.72, AS 08.80, AS 08.84, and AS 08.86,  
24 for the purpose of assisting those boards in matters of professional  
25 discipline and in responding to consumer complaints.

26 \* Sec. 5. AS 08.02.010(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) A behavioral science professional licensed under AS 08.15, a  
28 [A] person licensed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a  
29 dentist under AS 08.36, a medical practitioner or osteopath under

1 AS 08.64, a registered nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist under  
2 AS 08.72, a registered pharmacist under AS 08.80, a registered phys-  
3 ical therapist under AS 08.84, or a psychologist under AS 08.86, shall  
4 use as professional identification appropriate letters or a title  
5 after that person's name which represents that person's specific field  
6 of practice. The letters or title shall appear on all signs, statio-  
7 nery or other advertising in which the person offers or displays  
8 personal professional services to the public. In addition, a person  
9 engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathy under AS 08.64.-  
10 380(2), or a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who  
11 diagnoses, treats, tests, or counsels other persons in relation to  
12 human health or disease and uses the letters "M.D." or the title  
13 "doctor" or "physician" or another [ANY OTHER] title that [WHICH]  
14 tends to show that the person is willing or qualified to diagnose,  
15 treat, test, or counsel another person, shall clarify the letters or  
16 title by adding the appropriate specialist designation, if any, such  
17 as "dermatologist", "radiologist", "audiologist", "naturopath", or the  
18 like.

19 \* Sec. 6. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (21) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010) -- June 30,  
21 1990.

22 \* Sec. 7. AS 09.55.560(1) is amended to read:

23 (1) "health care provider" means a behavioral science  
24 professional licensed under AS 08.15; a chiropractor licensed under  
25 AS 08.20; a dental hygienist licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist li-  
26 censed under AS 08.36; a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing  
27 optician licensed under AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under  
28 AS 08.72; a pharmacist licensed under AS 08.80; a physical therapist  
29 licensed under AS 08.84; a physician licensed under AS 08.64; a

1        podiatrist; a psychologist and a psychological associate licensed  
2        under AS 08.86; and a hospital as defined in AS 18.20.130, including a  
3        governmentally owned or operated hospital; a corporate entity covered  
4        under AS 21.88.050(b)(12); and an employee of a health care provider  
5        acting within the course and scope of employment;

6        \* Sec. 8. AS 21.88.900(a)(9) is amended to read:

7                (9) "health care provider" means a behavioral science  
8                professional licensed under AS 08.15; a chiropractor licensed under  
9                AS 08.20; a dental hygienist licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist li-  
10              censed under AS 08.36; a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing  
11              optician licensed under AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under  
12              AS 08.72; a pharmacist licensed under AS 08.80; a physical therapist  
13              licensed under AS 08.84; a physician licensed under AS 08.64; a podia-  
14              trist; a psychologist and a psychological associate licensed under  
15              AS 08.86; and a hospital as defined in AS 18.20.130, including a  
16              governmentally owned or operated hospital; a corporate entity covered  
17              under AS 21.88.050(b)(12); and an employee of a health care provider  
18              acting within the course and scope of employment;

19        \* Sec. 9. AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20                (48) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010)

21        \* Sec. 10. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to  
22        read:

23                (53) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010).

24        \* Sec. 11. AS 47.17.070(9) is amended to read:

25                (9) "practitioner of the healing arts" includes chiroprac-  
26                tors, dental hygienists, dentists, health aides, nurses, nurse practi-  
27                tioners, optometrists, osteopaths, physical therapists, physicians,  
28                physician's assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychological  
29                associates, behavioral science professionals licensed under AS 08.15,

1 religious healing practitioners, and surgeons;

2 \* Sec. 12. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD. When making the initial  
3 appointments of professional members to the Board of Behavioral Science the  
4 governor shall consider an individual licensed for the purpose of AS 08.-  
5 15.020 if the individual qualifies to take an examination for a license  
6 under AS 08.15.110; however, the educational institutions referred to in  
7 AS 08.15.110(a)(1), and the supervisors required by AS 08.15.110(a)(2)(B),  
8 do not need to have been approved or authorized by the Board of Behavioral  
9 Science.

10 \* Sec. 13. Notwithstanding AS 08.15, as enacted by sec. 2 of this Act,  
11 the Board of Behavioral Science shall issue a license to practice a behav-  
12 ioral science to a person who applies within one year of the effective date  
13 of this section and who on that date either

14 (1) qualifies to take an examination for a license under AS 08.-  
15 15.110, except that the educational institutions referred to in AS 08.15.-  
16 110(a)(1), and the supervisors required by AS 08.15.110(a)(2)(B), do not  
17 need to have been approved or authorized by the Board of Behavioral  
18 Science;

19 or

20 (2) is practicing the behavioral science in the state and is a  
21 clinical member of a national certifying body.

22 \* Sec. 14. Notwithstanding AS 08.15.120, as enacted by sec. 2 of this  
23 Act, the Board of Behavioral Science shall approve as a supervisor for  
24 marital and family therapy a person who

25 (1) has been a clinical member of the American Association of  
26 Marriage and Family Therapy for two years or more;

27 (2) has practiced marital and family therapy for three years or  
28 more; and

29 (3) applies for approval as a supervisor within one year of the  
effective date of this Act.

1 \* Sec. 15. AS 08.15.950, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act has the effect  
2 of amending Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence by creating for a  
3 behavioral science professional licensed under secs. 2 or 13 of this Act, a  
4 privilege to refuse to disclose information.

5 \* Sec. 16. Sections 1 - 6 and 9 - 18 of this Act take effect immedi-  
6 ately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).

7 \* Sec. 17. Section 7 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1986.

8 \* Sec. 18. Section 8 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1987.

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Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## House

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 25, 1986

Representative M. Mike Miller  
Chairman House Judiciary  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: CSHB424 (L&C)-An act establishing the Board of Behavioral Science; amending Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence and providing for an effective date.

Dear Mike:

The above-referenced bill was originally scheduled to be heard in Labor & Commerce, Judiciary, & Finance. This bill was heard in Labor & Commerce and passed out with the understanding that it would be referred to House HESS so that it could be heard at the same time as HB317 which is a bill establishing a board of social workers. These bills need to be heard in the same committee at the same time to determine their fate. However, the committee substitute was scheduled to be heard in Judiciary before going to HESS. HB317 is to be heard in HESS on March 6th. Should we not be able to have HB424 heard at that time due to the fact that it has not been heard in Judiciary, the purpose of requesting it being sent to HESS is defeated.

Therefore, my request of you is immediate. Would you consider waiving the bill through Judiciary so that it could be heard in House HESS on March 6th, or would you request that it be heard after it is heard in House HESS?

I submit the following reasons to you for considering this an acceptable request:

- 1) I believe it was referred to Judiciary because of an amendment to Rule 504 which pertains to privilege of confidentiality.

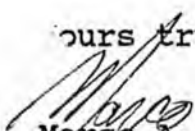
2) HB424 still would have 2 committees of referral if it were waived by Judiciary. House HESS has 3 members which are also members of your Judiciary Committee. Therefore, Judiciary would, in fact, be represented when it was heard in HESS. Those members are Representatives Gruenberg, Pettyjohn, and Taylor.

3) Finally, I would like to give you a brief history of this bill. Work was begun on bills establishing boards for social workers, marital and family therapists, and professionals counsellors in 1982 and in 1984 it was recommended by Senator Josephson that these groups should try to work on a joint board. The governor has expressed a preference for this approach. During the interim this past year, the three groups met with Peter Froehlich of the AG's office and he drafted a proposed substitute to the bill. The AG's office continues to work with us on this and I have attached letters from Froehlich and from Barbara Dale supporting this fact. In the meantime, the social workers have continued to usher their own board bill through. They are still supportive of a joint board, particularly knowing the governor's preference for such a board.

Obviously, both bills could not be passed without overlap. Should the social workers bill be passed, then counsellors and marital and family therapists would be left with no alternative but to try to push their own bills or face the situation of being left without a board and a state licensing system. We would like the opportunity to have both bills reviewed together and come up with the best possible bill. Losing that opportunity in House HESS would be tragic.

Therefore, I ask that you either waive the bill through or request that it be heard after it is heard in House HESS. We must let House HESS know of your decision by tomorrow, February 26th. Would you please consider this request and let me know of your decision today? Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Marco A. Pignalberi  
Representative

MAP:mep



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marco Pignalberi      DATE: February 13, 1986  
Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives

FROM: Barbara A. Dale      SUBJECT: HB 424  
Special Staff Assistant  
to the Governor  
Boards and Commissions

While Governor Sheffield supports the licensing of social workers, the office of Boards and Commissions has a strong preference for a combined board approach to licensing behavioral health professionals.

Governor Sheffield's policy of not supporting the creation of new boards and commissions is based primarily on budget considerations. There are currently over 140 official boards, commissions, councils, and task forces, which accommodate in excess of 1245 participants.

As an example of the expenditure involved, the FY 86 authorized operating budgets of 30 of these boards, councils, and commissions are in excess of 73 million.

The Division of Occupational Licensing, which provides administrative support for 18 existing licensing boards, has shown an increase of 27% in their operating budget since FY 84. Of the 27% increase, only 12% was generated from fees.

It is this office's recommendation that proposed boards, commissions, councils, and task forces be scrutinized for their potential to be combined with like professions, and that there be consideration given to inserting intent language that would instruct Occupational Licensing to set fees that would cover the costs of licensing, administration, and investigation.

cc: Ray Gillespie  
Jim Ayers

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

TO: Barbara Dale  
Special Assistant to Governor  
for Boards and Commissions

DATE: February 12, 1986

FILE NO: 377-068-86

TELEPHONE NO: 465-3600

FROM: Harold M. Brown  
Attorney General

SUBJECT: Revised draft of  
proposed CS for  
HB 424 (Board of  
Behavioral Science)

By: Peter B. Froehlich  
Assistant Attorney General  
Legislation/Regulations Section

Yesterday I delivered to you and distributed copies of the revised draft of a proposed Committee Substitute for HB 424 (Board of Behavioral Science), that I had hoped to finish last week. This revision incorporates some of the suggestions made by the Alaska chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in their January 15, 1986 letter, by the Alaska Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (AAMFT) in their February 3, 1986 letter, and the Alaska chapter of the American Association of Counseling and Development (AACD) in a January 30 telephone conversation with Chapter President Pat Reeves. All 3 groups also made some suggestions on the January 29 telephone conference call we had with them.

As you know, this continuing project is a cooperative effort by your office, ours, and the 3 professional organizations to develop HB 424 into an acceptable compromise bill combining the 3 new separate licensing boards sought by these 3 professions into one Board of Behavioral Science. The effort was initiated last summer by your predecessor, Carol Derfner, in an attempt to reconcile the governor's longstanding policy against the creation of new occupational licensing boards with the increasing demands from these 3 professional organizations for 3 separate new boards. It was decided that 1 new combined board was the next best alternative instead of separate new boards for each behavioral science profession. HB 424, following this approach, was introduced late last session by Representative Pignalberi and, although it was incomplete and imperfect, it was chosen as a vehicle for developing a combined behavioral science board bill.

A meeting of all concerned parties, including the staff of the House Labor and Commerce Committee and of the House HESS Committee, was held in Anchorage on September 13, 1985 and we went through HB 424 section-by-section, forging agreement in concept on each provision. The minutes of that meeting are attached. I drafted a proposed CS for HB 424 based on those agreements and sent it to the office of House HESS Committee Co-Chair Gruenberg whose staff had promised to distribute it along with minutes to all who had attended. I also supplied the draft to

you and to Representative Pignalberi. Although I solicited comments and suggestions so I could revise the draft, we heard nothing until the first week of the session when we were contacted by the president of NASW. You then contacted the other professional groups and again solicited their comments, this time successfully.

This redraft of the proposed CS is the result of my synthesis of those comments and of Representative Gruenberg's HB 396 (professional counselors), Senator Fahrenkamp's SB 227 (social workers), Representative Pignalberi's HB 421 (marriage and family therapists), SB 195 (governor's bill on miscellaneous occupational licensing amendments), and, of course, HB 424 (behavioral science), as it was originally introduced.

Some parts of my revised proposed CS for HB 424 may be the focus of some disagreement. Therefore I want to identify them along with some of the general principles I considered in drafting it:

- 1) On page 10 of the bill, in AS 08.15.210(b) and (c) setting the examination qualifications for master and independent level social worker licenses, the language of subsec. (a) was mistakenly repeated. The correct language is on pages 3 and 4 of CSSB 227(Fin) in AS 08.-87.100(b) and (c).
- 2) The justification for occupational licensing is protection of consumers, not protection of professionals from competition within their own profession or from other professions. Therefore, for example, I have not drafted the CS to automatically grandfather all current practitioners into permanent licenses. Rather, a current practitioner who is a clinical member of a national certifying body would be allowed within one year to apply for a two-year temporary license, until the practitioner can take and pass the same exam as other applicants. Section 13 of the bill needs some revision to accomplish this.
- 3) The costs to government of a licensing system should be minimized and should be passed on to those licensed.
- 4) Government's involvement in occupational licensing means that professional associations sacrifice some control. Therefore, as much as possible, the CS should place functions in the department rather than in the board, according to principles of centralized licens-

ing. Examinations should be objective to minimize the need for special expertise and the danger of arbitrariness in grading.

- 5) A combined board is a compromise, so no single profession will get everything it may want in a licensing system.
- 6) Efficiency in drafting and in the operation of a combined board both require that the general provisions in art. 5, on such things as renewals, credential licenses, temporary licenses, and discipline must all be set out only once uniformly for all 3 professions.
- 7) All licensing boards should have as much flexibility as possible to adopt and amend detailed regulations on the specifics of a license system.
- 8) In the interest of preserving the strong executive form of government established by the constitution, all board members should serve at the pleasure of the governor as now provided in AS 08.01.020.

I still have some concerns about parts of the CS, even as I have drafted it. These are mainly focused on the inordinate degree of minute detail regarding marriage and family therapists' eligibility to take the Alaska license exam and the stringent supervision requirements for entry level professionals in that profession only. It seems that these details should be eliminated and the subjects either dealt with in a general way in statute for all 3 professions, or in special ways for each in regulations. NASW seems to agree with this concept in their comments on supervision and approved supervisors of marriage and family therapists.

Another concern I have is the omission of psychologists and the existing board for that profession. That omission of a related and even overlapping profession, while not entirely logical, is apparently a matter of political practicality and the time constraints of this legislative session. The Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associates Examiners will be subjected to sunset review next session. So, whether or not this bill is successful this session, combining the psychologists into a true and complete Board of Behavioral Science can be taken up during that sunset review.

A third concern is that perhaps it would be more efficient and logical for the Department of Commerce and Economic

Barbara Dale, Special Assistant to  
Governor for Boards & Commissions

February 12, 1986  
Page 4

Development to register behavioral science professionals without a board. This approach may well be equally as effective as an expensive and somewhat cumbersome board in protecting clients from dangerously incompetent or unscrupulous professionals.

My final concern is that SB 227, creating a new social workers board has this session been passed by the Senate and is now in the House HESS Committee before it goes to the House Finance Committee. This bill, HB 424, creating a single combined board including social workers as agreed in concept by NASW is in the House Labor and Commerce Committee before going to the House Judiciary and Finance Committees. It would be much easier to develop the combined board approach if both bills were considered at the same time by the same committee, before they separately reach the House Finance Committee.

I hope to continue to work with you, the professional organizations, the Departments of Commerce and Economic Development and Health and Social Services, and the interested legislative staff and committees in resolving the remaining issues on licensing of behavioral science professionals in the most efficient way.

PBF:md

cc: Hon. Marco Pignalberi  
Ak. House of Representatives

Hon. Max Gruenberg  
Co-Chair, House HESS Committee  
Ak. House of Representatives

Hon. Mike Navarre  
Chair, House Labor & Commerce  
Committee  
Ak. House of Representatives

Hon. Bettye Fahrenkamp  
Chair, Senate HESS Committee  
Ak. Senate

Hon. Loren H. Lounsbury, Commissioner  
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development

Hon. John Pugh, Commissioner  
Dept. of Health & Social Services

Barbara Dale, Special Assistant to  
Governor for Boards & Commissions

February 12, 1986  
Page 5

Jim Ayers, Director  
Legislative Relations  
Governor's Office

Mike Price, Director  
Div. of Family & Youth Services  
DHSS

Nancy Dunn, Director  
Div. of Occupational Licensing  
DCED

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J  
J

Offered: 2/19/86  
Referred: Judiciary and  
Finance

Original sponsor: Pignalberi

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE LABOR AND COMMERCE  
COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 424(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 establishing the Board of Behavioral Science;  
7 amending Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence;  
8 and providing for an effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds  
11 that the practice of the behavioral science professions affects the safety  
12 and welfare of the public and requires regulation and control by the state  
13 in the public interest.

14 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish a regulatory board and  
15 procedures to ensure that the public is protected from the unprofessional,  
16 improper, and unauthorized practice of the behavioral science professions.  
17 This Act shall be liberally construed to carry out this purpose.

18 \* Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:  
19 (24) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010).

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

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

23 (1) collect fees and issue receipts;  
24 (2) maintain records and files;  
25 (3) issue and receive application forms;  
26 (4) notify applicants of acceptance or rejection of appli-  
27 cants as determined by the board;

28 (5) designate dates examinations are to be held and notify  
29 applicants;

- 1 (6) publish notice of examination;
- 2 (7) arrange space for holding examinations;
- 3 (8) notify applicants of results of examinations;
- 4 (9) issue licenses and certificates or temporary licenses
- 5 or certificates as authorized by the board;
- 6 (10) issue duplicate licenses or certificates upon proof by
- 7 the licensee of loss of the original and payment by the licensee of a
- 8 fee of \$2 except as otherwise provided in this title;
- 9 (11) notify licensees of renewal dates at least 30 days
- 10 before the expiration date of their licenses;
- 11 (12) compile and maintain current a register of licenses;
- 12 (13) answer routine inquiries;
- 13 (14) maintain files relating to individual licensees;
- 14 (15) arrange for printing and advertising;
- 15 (16) purchase supplies;
- 16 (17) employ secretarial help when needed;
- 17 (18) perform other services which may be requested by the
- 18 board;
- 19 (19) provide investigative services to the boards estab-
- 20 lished under AS 08.04, AS 08.15, AS 08.20, AS 08.36, AS 08.64, AS 08.-
- 21 68, AS 08.70, AS 08.71, AS 08.72, AS 08.80, AS 08.84, and AS 08.86,
- 22 for the purpose of assisting those boards in matters of professional
- 23 discipline and in responding to consumer complaints.

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

- 25 (a) A behavioral science professional licensed under AS 08.15, a
- 26 [A] person licensed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a
- 27 dentist under AS 08.36, a medical practitioner or osteopath under
- 28 AS 08.64, a registered nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist under
- 29 AS 08.72, a registered pharmacist under AS 08.80, a registered

1 physical therapist under AS 08.84, or a psychologist under AS 08.86,  
2 shall use as professional identification appropriate letters or a  
3 title after that person's name which represents that person's specific  
4 field of practice. The letters or title shall appear on all signs,  
5 stationery or other advertising in which the person offers or displays  
6 personal professional services to the public. In addition, a person  
7 engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathy under AS 08.64.-  
8 380(2), or a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who  
9 diagnoses, treats, tests, or counsels other persons in relation to  
10 human health or disease and uses the letters "M.D." or the title  
11 "doctor" or "physician" or another [ANY OTHER] title that [WHICH]  
12 tends to show that the person is willing or qualified to diagnose,  
13 treat, test, or counsel another person, shall clarify the letters or  
14 title by adding the appropriate specialist designation, if any, such  
15 as "dermatologist", "radiologist", "audiologist", "naturopath", or the  
16 like.

17 \* Sec. 5. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:  
18 (21) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010) -- June 30,  
19 1990.

20 \* Sec. 6. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21 CHAPTER 15. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS.

22 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE.

23 Sec. 08.15.010. BOARD ESTABLISHED. There is established a Board  
24 of Behavioral Science.

25 Sec. 08.15.020. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The board consists of two  
26 persons from each behavioral science profession regulated by the board  
27 and one member of the public for each behavioral science profession  
28 that is regulated by the board.

29 (b) Each professional member must

1           (1) be licensed in the behavioral science profession corre-  
2 sponding to the board position to which the person is being appointed;

3           (2) for the four years immediately preceding appointment,  
4 have been engaged in the active practice of the behavioral science  
5 profession corresponding to the board position to which the person is  
6 being appointed.

7           Sec. 08.15.030. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. (a) The governor shall  
8 appoint the members of the board subject to confirmation by the legis-  
9 lature for staggered terms of three years.

10          (b) The governor may not appoint the same person more than once  
11 to fill an unexpired term on the board. A person may not serve as a  
12 member of the board for more than two consecutive terms.

13          Sec. 08.15.040. MEETINGS. The board may hold teleconference  
14 meetings in addition to the minimum required by AS 08.01.070(3) at the  
15 call of the chairperson or a majority of the board members.

16          Sec. 08.15.050. POWERS OF THE BOARD. The board may

17           (1) examine applicants and issue licenses to qualified  
18 applicants;

19           (2) issue certificates to persons who meet the standards  
20 determined by the board for specialty certification;

21           (3) establish continuing education requirements for license  
22 renewal after consulting with the standards committee for the behav-  
23 ioral science profession for which the continuing education require-  
24 ments are being established;

25           (4) hold hearings, and order the disciplinary sanction of a  
26 person who violates this chapter or a regulation of the board;

27           (5) report annually to the governor and the department on  
28 the board's proceedings each year;

29           (6) perform the administrative duties required by

1 AS 08.01.070;

2 (7) establish standards for supervisors and supervision  
3 under this chapter;

4 (8) enforce the provisions of this chapter and adopt regu-  
5 lations necessary to make the provisions of this chapter effective.

6 Sec. 08.15.060. STANDARDS COMMITTEES. (a) The board shall ap-  
7 point a standards committee for each behavioral science profession  
8 that it regulates under this chapter, comprised of the two board  
9 members from the behavioral science profession and a public member of  
10 the board.

11 (b) Each standards committee may advise the board about the  
12 licensing and regulation of the behavioral science profession that is  
13 the subject of that particular standards committee and may make rec-  
14 ommendations to the board on the following items for that profession:

15 (1) the granting of licenses;  
16 (2) the examination for licensure;  
17 (3) the grading of examinations;  
18 (4) regulation changes;  
19 (5) initiation of investigations or disciplinary proceed-  
20 ings;

21 (6) penalties for violations of this chapter;  
22 (7) licensure guidelines or criteria for licensure;  
23 (8) supervision requirements; and  
24 (9) continuing education requirements for license renewal.

25 (c) Each standards committee may act as a liaison between the  
26 board and educational institutions and perform other functions that  
27 the board requests.

28 (d) A recommendation of a standards committee is not final until  
29 the board approves the decision. The board may initiate an action or

1 otherwise perform a duty that a standards committee is authorized to  
2 perform.

3 (e) A decision of the board relating to a behavioral science  
4 profession regulated by the board is not effective unless it is ap-  
5 proved by two or more members of the standards committee for that  
6 behavioral science.

7 Sec. 08.15.070. PROCEDURES. The Administrative Procedure Act  
8 (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and to board proceedings, but only  
9 AS 44.62.310 -- 44.62.312 apply to standards committee proceedings.

10 ARTICLE 2. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

11 Sec. 08.15.110. QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION. (a) An appli-  
12 cant for the marital and family therapist examination shall furnish  
13 evidence satisfactory the board that the applicant

14 (1) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for impos-  
15 ing disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.15.970.

16 (2) has a master's degree or doctorate from an accredited  
17 educational institution approved by the board, for which the person  
18 completed a course of study that included one year of supervised  
19 marital and family therapy clinical practice with 500 hours of super-  
20 vised client contact and

21 (A) three courses in marital and family therapy;

22 (B) three courses in marital and family studies;

23 (C) three courses in human development;

24 (D) one course in professional ethics and law;

25 (E) one course in research;

26 (3) after receiving a degree listed in (2), has

27 (A) practiced marital and family therapy within three  
28 years of the person's application, including 1,500 hours of  
29 direct clinical contact with couples and families; a d

1 (B) has been supervised by at least two authorized  
2 supervisors in the clinical contact for at least 200 hours,  
3 including at least 100 hours of individual supervision and 100  
4 hours of group supervision approved by the board.

5 (b) The board shall credit an applicant with the hours the  
6 applicant has earned in supervised practice under AS 8.15.120 towards  
7 satisfaction of the hours of supervision required under this section.

8 (c) The board may not allow an applicant who fails an examina-  
9 tion given under this section to take a subsequent examination for a  
10 period of six months from the date of the examination that the appli-  
11 cant failed.

12 Sec. 08.15.120. LICENSE FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE. (a) The board  
13 shall issue a nonrenewable four-year license for the supervised prac-  
14 tice of marital and family therapy to a person who

15 (1) applies on a form approved by the board;

16 (2) pays the fee established by the department under  
17 AS 08.01.065;

18 (3) furnishes the evidence required by AS 08.15.110(a)(1)  
19 and (2);

20 (4) submits to the board a statement of intent to practice  
21 and a plan for supervision.

22 (b) A licensee under this section may practice only

23 (1) under the direct supervision of a supervisor approved  
24 by the board; and

25 (2) in a clinic, social service agency, or other setting  
26 approved by the board.

27 (c) A licensee under this section shall submit to the board for  
28 its approval a proposed plan for satisfying the supervision require-  
29 ment under AS 08.15.110(a)(3).

1 (d) A licensee under this section shall use the title "marital  
2 therapy associate," "family therapy associate," or other title that is  
3 approved by the board.

4 (e) The board shall revoke a license for supervised practice if  
5 the person fails the marital and family therapist examination.

6 (f) The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the extent,  
7 kind, and quality of services performed by the supervisee are consis-  
8 tent with the training experience of the licensee.

9 (g) A licensee shall retain records of supervisory contact and  
10 submit them to the board at times specified by the board.

11 Sec. 08.15.130. APPROVED SUPERVISORS. (a) Except for super-  
12 vision under AS 08.15.110(a)(3)(B), a person may not supervise a  
13 person in the practice of marital and family therapy unless the person  
14 is approved by the board.

15 (b) The board shall approve as a supervisor a person who

16 (1) applies to the board for the approval;

17 (2) is licensed under this chapter to practice marital and  
18 family therapy.

19 (c) Notwithstanding (b) of this section, the board shall approve  
20 as a supervisor a member of a mental health profession other than the  
21 marital and family therapy profession if the person meets the criteria  
22 established by the board for approval of a member of another mental  
23 health profession as a supervisor.

24 (d) The board shall establish continuing education requirements  
25 for marital and family therapy supervisors who are approved by the  
26 board.

27 (e) The board may cancel its approval of a person as a supervi-  
28 sor if the person commits an act listed in AS 08.15.170, fails to  
29 satisfy the continuing education requirements established by the board

1 under AS 08.15.050(3), or otherwise violates a provision of this  
2 chapter.

3 Sec. 08.15.140. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. A person licensed as a  
4 marital and family therapist may assess or diagnose and treat mental  
5 and emotional disorders that are referenced in the standard diagnostic  
6 nomenclature for marital and family therapy, whether cognitive, affec-  
7 tive, or behavioral, within the context of human relationships, par-  
8 ticularly marital and family systems. Marital and family therapy  
9 involves rendering or offering to render for a fee

10 (1) an applied understanding of the dynamics of marital and  
11 family interactions, along with the application of psychotherapeutic  
12 and counseling techniques for the purpose of resolving intrapersonal  
13 and interpersonal conflict and changing perceptions, attitudes, and  
14 behaviors in the area of human relationships and family life; and

15 (2) the professional application of assessments and treat-  
16 ments of psychotherapeutic services to individuals, couples, and  
17 families for the purpose of treating the diagnosed emotional and  
18 mental disorders.

19 ARTICLE 3. SOCIAL WORKERS.

20 Sec. 08.15.210. QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION. (a) An appli-  
21 cant for the bachelor social worker (LBSW) examination shall furnish  
22 evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant

23 (1) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for disci-  
24 plinary sanctions under AS 08.15.970; and

25 (2) has a bachelor's degree in social work from a school  
26 with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
27 Education.

28 (b) An applicant for the master social worker examination shall  
29 furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant

1 (1) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for disci-  
2 plinary sanctions under AS 08.15.970; and

3 (2) has a master's degree in social work from a school with  
4 a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
5 tion.

6 (c) An applicant for the independent social worker examination  
7 shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant

8 (1) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for disci-  
9 plinary sanctions under AS 08.15.970; and

10 (2) has a master's degree in social work from a school with  
11 a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
12 tion; and

13 (3) has completed at least 24 months of supervised post-  
14 graduate experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in  
15 which the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

16 Sec. 08.15.240. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a  
17 bachelor, master, or independent social worker may provide services  
18 that enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social func-  
19 tioning whether impaired by physical, environmental, or emotional  
20 factors, guided by professional social work ethics, knowledge and  
21 intervention methods.

22 (b) A social worker may practice psychotherapy only if the  
23 social worker is licensed as an independent social worker with a  
24 clinical specialty or as a master social worker and is employed and  
25 supervised in a clinical setting.

26 (c) A social worker may practice social work autonomously only  
27 if

28 (1) the person is licensed as an independent social worker;

29 (2) the board has approved the specialty in which the

1 person may engage as a private practitioner and authorizes designation  
2 of the speciality on the person's license;

3 (3) the license bearing a designation of speciality is  
4 prominently displayed in the place the person engages in private  
5 practice; and

6 (4) the person limits the private practice of social work  
7 to the designated specialty.

8 ARTICLE 4. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS.

9 Sec. 08.15.310. QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION. (a) An appli-  
10 cant for the professional counseling examination shall furnish evi-  
11 dence satisfactory to the board that the applicant

12 (1) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for impos-  
13 ing disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.15.970;

14 (2) has a master's degree or doctorate that is primarily  
15 counseling in content from a regionally accredited institution ap-  
16 proved by the board;

17 (3) has three years of full-time supervised experience in  
18 professional counseling.

19 (b) An applicant may subtract one year of the supervised experi-  
20 ence required by (a)(3) of this section for every 30 graduate semester  
21 hours from an accredited institution obtained beyond the requirements  
22 for a master's degree if the hours are clearly related to professional  
23 counseling. However, an applicant must have at least one year of  
24 required professional experience.

25 Sec. 08.15.340. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a  
26 professional counselor may render or offer to render for a fee to  
27 individuals, groups, organizations, or the public a counseling service  
28 involving the application of principles, methods, or procedures of  
29 counseling to assist individuals in achieving more effective personal,

1 social, educational, career, and vocational development and adjust-  
2 ment.

3 (b) "Counseling services" includes engaging in methods and  
4 techniques that include

5 (1) "appraisal," which means selecting, administering,  
6 scoring and interpreting instruments designed to assess an individu-  
7 al's aptitudes, attitudes, abilities, achievement, interests, and  
8 personal characteristics, and the use of nonstandardized methods and  
9 techniques for understanding human behavior in relation to coping  
10 with, adapting to, or changing life situations;

11 (2) "consulting," which means the application of scientific  
12 principles and procedures in counseling, guidance and human develop-  
13 ment to provide assistance in understanding and solving a current or  
14 potential problem that the consultee may have in relation to another  
15 party, whether an individual, group or organization;

16 (3) "counseling," which means assisting an individual,  
17 group, or organization through the counseling relationship, to develop  
18 understanding of intrapersonal and interpersonal problems, to define  
19 goals, to make decisions, plan a course of action reflecting the  
20 counselee's needs, interests and abilities, and to use informational  
21 and community resources as these procedures are related to personal,  
22 social education, career, and vocational development and adjustment;

23 (4) "referral," which means evaluating information to  
24 identify needs or problems of the counselee and to determine the  
25 advisability of referral to other specialists, informing the counselee  
26 of the judgment, and communicating as requested or appropriate to  
27 referral sources.

28 ARTICLE 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

29 Sec. 08.15.910. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION. The board shall issue a

1 license to practice a behavioral science profession to an applicant  
2 who

- 3 (1) applies on a form provided by the department;
- 4 (2) pays the fee established by the department under  
5 AS 08.01.065; and
- 6 (3) passes the written examination administered by the  
7 department on behalf of the board.

8 Sec. 08.15.920. TEMPORARY LICENSE. (a) The board shall issue a  
9 temporary license to an applicant who satisfies all the requirements  
10 for permanent licensure except for passing the examination and who has  
11 been approved by the board to take the examination.

12 (b) A person may practice under a temporary license until the  
13 board issues the results of the first examination given after issuance  
14 of the person's temporary license and either issues or denies a perma-  
15 nent license to the person.

16 (c) If a licensee under this section does not take the next  
17 examination given after the issuance of the temporary license, the  
18 board may renew the person's temporary license until the board issues  
19 the results of the next examination, if the licensee provides satis-  
20 factory proof to the board that the licensee had good cause for not  
21 taking the examination.

22 (d) If a licensee under this section fails the examination, the  
23 board may not renew the person's temporary license.

24 Sec. 08.15.930. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall, with-  
25 out examination, issue a license to practice a behavioral science  
26 profession to a person who

- 27 (1) is licensed as a behavioral science professional in  
28 another state that has requirements for the license or certificate  
29 that are substantially equal to or greater than the requirements of

1 this state;

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

3 (3) pays the fee established by the department under  
4 AS 08.01.065; and

5 (4) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the  
6 applicant

7 (A) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for  
8 disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.15.170;

9 (B) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,  
10 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a  
11 professional association or regulatory authority;

12 (C) has not failed the examination of this state; or

13 (D) has not previously had a license to practice  
14 revoked in any jurisdiction..

15 Sec. 08.15.940. RENEWAL OF LICENSE. A license issued under this  
16 section expires two years from the date of issue. It may be renewed  
17 by payment of the fee required under AS 08.15.140 and by satisfaction  
18 of the continuing education requirements established by the board for  
19 the renewal of licenses issued under this section.

20 Sec. 08.15.950. FEES. The department shall, by regulations  
21 adopted under AS 08.01.065, establish fees for behavioral science  
22 professionals for the following:

23 (1) application;

24 (2) examination;

25 (3) credential review;

26 (4) license;

27 (5) temporary license;

28 (6) license for supervised practice;

29 (7) renewal of license;

1 (8) renewal of temporary license.

2 Sec. 08.15.960. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A behavioral  
3 science professional licensed under this chapter may not disclose  
4 information provided to the licensee by a client in the course of  
5 their professional conduct. This prohibition does not apply if the

6 (1) client provides written consent to the licensee to  
7 reveal the communication;

8 (2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal  
9 representative provides written consent to the licensee to reveal the  
10 communication;

11 (3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy  
12 on the client's life provides written consent to the licensee to  
13 reveal the communication;

14 (4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed  
15 or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

16 (5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the  
17 client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the licensee  
18 reveals the communication only during the course of an official ex-  
19 amination, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the  
20 crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

21 (6) client brings charges against the licensee and the  
22 licensee reveals the communication only as necessary to defend the  
23 charges;

24 (7) licensee is subpoenaed to testify in court;

25 (8) licensee is collaborating or consulting with profes-  
26 sional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the  
27 client;

28 (9) communication discloses information that the licensee  
29 is required by state or federal laws or regulations to disclose.

1           Sec. 08.15.970. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-  
2 TIONS. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction  
3 on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the  
4 person

5                   (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional  
6 misrepresentation;

7                   (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-  
8 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in  
9 professional activities;

10                  (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-  
11 ing manner;

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

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

17                  (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

18                           (A) professional incompetence;

19                           (B) addiction or dependency on alcohol or another drug  
20 that impairs the person's ability to practice safely;

21                           (C) physical or mental disability;

22                  (7) engaged in lewd or immoral conduct in connection with  
23 the delivery of professional services to clients;

24                  (8) had a license to practice in another jurisdiction  
25 suspended or revoked for any reason except a fee dispute;

26                  (9) has violated a code of ethics adopted by board regula-  
27 tion.

28           Sec. 08.15.980. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) When it finds that  
29 a licensee has committed an act listed in AS 08.15.970, the board may

1 impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:  
2 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;  
3 (2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;  
4 (3) censure a licensee;  
5 (4) issue a letter of reprimand;  
6 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the  
7 licensee to  
8 (A) report regularly to the board on matters involving  
9 the basis of probation;  
10 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;  
11 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-  
12 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas determined  
13 by the board to need improvement;  
14 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a  
15 licensee.  
16 (b) The board may withdraw a limitation, condition, or proba-  
17 tionary status if it finds that the deficiency that required the  
18 sanction has been remedied.  
19 (c) The board may suspend a license upon receipt of a certified  
20 copy of evidence that a license to practice medicine in another state  
21 or territory of the United States or province of Canada has been  
22 suspended or revoked. The suspension remains in effect until a hear-  
23 ing can be held by the board.  
24 (d) The board shall seek consistency in the application of  
25 disciplinary sanctions, and the board shall explain a significant  
26 departure from prior decisions involving similar situations in its  
27 findings of fact or orders.  
28 Sec. 08.15.990. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTY. (a) Unless a  
29 person is licensed under this chapter, the person may not

1 (1) practice a behavioral science profession regulated by  
2 this chapter for which the person is not licensed under this chapter;

3 (2) use a title indicating or representing that the person  
4 practices or is licensed to practice a behavioral science profession  
5 regulated by this chapter for which the person is not licensed under  
6 this chapter;

7 (3) advertise that the person practices a behavioral sci-  
8 ence profession regulated by this chapter for which the person is not  
9 licensed under this chapter.

10 (b) A person who violates this chapter or a regulation adopted  
11 under it is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

12 Sec. 08.15.995. EXEMPTIONS. This chapter does not apply to a  
13 person who practices a behavioral science profession regulated by this  
14 chapter consistent with the accepted standards and code of ethics of  
15 the person's profession and as part of the person's duties as

16 (1) a psychologist or psychological associate;

17 (2) a physician or psychiatrist;

18 (3) an attorney or judge;

19 (4) a member of the clergy;

20 (5) a student, intern, or resident pursuing a course of  
21 study approved by the board as appropriate training for a behavioral  
22 science profession regulated by the board, if the activities of the  
23 student, intern, or resident constitute a part of a supervised course  
24 of study and the student, intern, or resident is designated by a title  
25 that indicates that the person is training to be a behavioral science  
26 professional regulated by the board.

27 Sec. 08.15.999. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter,

28 (1) "advertise" includes issuing or causing to be dis-  
29 tributed a card, sign or device to a person, or causing, permitting or

1 allowing a sign or marking on or in a building or structure, or in a  
2 newspaper, magazine, or directory, or on radio or television, or using  
3 other means designed to secure public attention;

4 (2) "behavioral science professional" means a marriage and  
5 family therapist, a social worker, or a professional counselor;

6 (3) "board" means the Board of Behavioral Science;

7 (4) "course" means a class of at least three credit hours  
8 in a graduate program at an accredited educational institution or an  
9 institution approved by the board;

10 (5) "supervision" means face-to-face consultation, direc-  
11 tion, review, evaluation and assessment of the practice of the person  
12 being supervised, including direct observation and the review of case  
13 presentations, audio tapes and video tapes.

14 \* Sec. 7. AS 09.55.500(1) is amended to read:

15 (1) "health care provider" means a behavioral science  
16 professional licensed under AS 08.15; a chiropractor licensed under  
17 AS 08.20; a dental hygienist licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist li-  
18 censed under AS 08.36; a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing  
19 optician licensed under AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under  
20 AS 08.72; a pharmacist licensed under AS 08.80; a physical therapist  
21 licensed under AS 08.84; a physician licensed under AS 08.64; a podia-  
22 trist; a psychologist and a psychological associate licensed under  
23 AS 08.86; and a hospital as defined in AS 18.20.130, including a  
24 governmentally owned or operated hospital; a corporate entity covered  
25 under AS 21.88.050(b)(12); and an employee of a health care provider  
26 acting within the course and scope of employment;

27 \* Sec. 8. AS 21.88.900(a)(9) is amended to read:

28 (9) "health care provider" means a behavioral science  
29 professional licensed under AS 08.15; a chiropractor licensed under

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

11 \* Sec. 9. AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:  
12 (48) an occupational licensing board or commission (AS 08).

13 \* Sec. 10. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to  
14 read:

15 (53) Board of Behavioral Science (AS 08.15.010).

16 \* Sec. 11. AS 47.17.070(6) is amended to read:

17 (6) "practitioner of the healing arts" includes chiroprac-  
18 tors, dentists, health aides, nurses, optometrists, osteopaths, phys-  
19 ical therapists, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, behavioral  
20 science professionals licensed under AS 08.15, religious healing  
21 practitioners, and surgeons;

22 \* Sec. 12. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD. (a) Notwithstanding  
23 AS 08.15.030 as enacted by sec. 6 of this Act, the initial appointments of  
24 members to the Board of Behavioral Science are for the following terms:

- 25 (1) three members for a term of one year;  
26 (2) three members for a term of two years;  
27 (3) three members for a term of three years.

28 (b) In making the initial appointments of professional members to the  
29 Board of Behavioral Science, the governor shall consider a person licensed

1 for the purpose of AS 08.15.020 if the person qualifies to take the  
2 examination for the license. The Board of Behavioral Science shall issue a  
3 two-year temporary license to each professional member appointed under this  
4 section.

5 \* Sec. 13. (a) The board shall issue a two-year transitional license  
6 to practice a behavioral science to a person who applies within one year of  
7 the effective date of this section and who on that date either

8 (1) qualifies to take the examination for a permanent license; or  
9 (2) is practicing the behavioral science in the state and is a  
10 clinical member of a national certifying body.

11 (b) The board shall issue a two-year transitional bachelor social  
12 worker license to a person that applies within one year after the effective  
13 date of this section and who on that date

14 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social  
15 work program that is not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education  
16 or a bachelor's or master's degree in a social sciences field related to  
17 social work as defined by the board, and has been practicing under the  
18 title "social worker" for at least 24 consecutive months before July 1,  
19 1988; or

20 (2) has been practicing social work under the supervision of a  
21 person eligible to be licensed under this Act for at least two years; or

22 (3) has practiced social work for at least 24 months total and  
23 for the 24 months before July 1, 1988, has been employed in the administra-  
24 tion of an agency that employs people under the title.

25 (c) Notwithstanding any provisions of new AS 08.15, a person who is  
26 issued a two-year transitional license under this section is eligible to  
27 take the examination for a permanent license of the same category.

28 \* Sec. 14. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.15.130 enacted by sec. 6 of this  
29 Act the board shall approve as a supervisor a person who

1           (1) has been a clinical member of the American Association of  
2 Marriage and Family Therapy for two years or more;

3           (2) has practiced marital and family therapy for three years or  
4 more; and

5           (3) applies for approval as a supervisor within one year of the  
6 effective date of this Act.

7           (b) A person approved as a supervisor under this section is subject  
8 to the continuing education requirements and cancellation provisions of  
9 AS 08.15.130.

10       \* Sec. 15. AS 08.15.960, enacted by sec. 6 of this Act, has the effect  
11 of amending Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence by creating for a  
12 behavioral science professional licensed under secs. 6, 12, or 13 of this  
13 Act a privilege to refuse to disclose information.

14       \* Sec. 16. Sections 1 -- 6 and 9 -- 16 of this Act take effect immedi-  
15 ately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).

16       \* Sec. 17. Section 7 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1986.

17       \* Sec. 18. Section 8 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1987.

Introduced: 3/25/85  
Referred: Labor & Commerce,  
Health, Education & Social  
Services and Finance

BY KOPONEN, LARSON, HURLEY,  
GRUENBERG, GOLL AND DAVIS

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 317

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of social work and  
7 establishing the Board of Social Worker Examiners;  
8 and providing for an effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to assure the consu-  
11 mer that persons providing services under the title "social worker" have  
12 completed professional social work education, adhere to a code of profes-  
13 sional ethics, and are subject to review by the Board of Social Work Exami-  
14 ners.

15 \* Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:  
16 (25) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

17 \* Sec. 3. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:  
18 (21) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010) --  
19 June 30, 1989.

20 \* Sec. 4. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21 CHAPTER 87. SOCIAL WORKERS.

22 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS.

23 Sec. 08.87.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD. There is  
24 created a Board of Social Worker Examiners consisting of five members,  
25 including three master social workers, one of whom is an independent  
26 social worker, one bachelor social worker, and one public member.  
27 Professional members shall be licensed under this chapter. The public  
28 member may not be licensed as a social worker or employed by a li-  
29 censed social worker. To the extent possible members shall be

1 appointed from different geographic regions of the state. A member  
2 who has served two successive full terms may not be reappointed until  
3 four years after the expiration of the second term.

4 Sec. 08.87.020. TERM OF OFFICE. Each member of the board serves  
5 for a term of four years and until the member's successor is appointed  
6 and qualified. An appointment to a vacancy is for the unexpired  
7 portion of the term.

8 Sec. 08.87.030. BOARD MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least  
9 two times a year. The board may hold special meetings at the call of  
10 the chair or of a majority of the board members. ' , ' ,

11 Sec. 08.87.040. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The board shall elect  
12 from among its members a chairperson and a secretary. Officers serve  
13 for a term not exceeding two years.

14 Sec. 08.87.050. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may  
15 remove a member of the board for cause. The board may (by regulation)  
16 provide that unexcused absences from meetings are cause for removal.

17 Sec. 08.87.060. PER DIEM AND TRAVEL. Board members receive no  
18 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses author-  
19 ized for members of boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

20 Sec. 08.87.070. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall

21 (1) provide for the examination of eligible applicants for  
22 licenses under this chapter;

23 (2) submit an annual report of its proceedings to the  
24 governor, including recommended changes to this chapter and a state-  
25 ment of money received and disbursed;

26 (3) establish standards for specialty designations for the  
27 private practice of social work and authorize speciality designations  
28 on licenses issued under this chapter;

29 (4) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions against

1 a person who violates this chapter, an order of the board, or a regu-  
2 lation of the board;

3 (5) adopt regulations relating to requirements for the  
4 supervision of persons engaged in social work under this chapter who  
5 are not master social workers;

6 (6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued compe-  
7 tency before a license is renewed;

8 (7) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this  
9 chapter.

10 ARTICLE 2. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

11 Sec. 08.87.100. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) A person is  
12 eligible for a license as a bachelor social worker (LBSW) if the  
13 person

14 (1) is in good professional standing and is fit to practice  
15 social work as determined under regulations of the board;

16 (2) has satisfactorily completed the state examination for  
17 the license;

18 (3) provides three references acceptable to the board;

19 (4) has a bachelor's degree in social work from a school  
20 with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
21 Education.

22 (b) A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker  
23 (LMSW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this  
24 section and has a master's degree in social work from a school with a  
25 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
26 tion.

27 (c) A person is eligible for a license as an independent social  
28 worker (LISW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of  
29 this section, has a master's degree in social work from a school with

1 a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
2 tion, and has completed at least 24 months of supervised post-graduate  
3 experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in which  
4 the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

5 Sec. 08.87.110. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a  
6 bachelor, master, or independent social worker may provide services  
7 that enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social func-  
8 tioning whether impaired by physical, environmental, or emotional  
9 factors, guided by professional social work ethics, knowledge and  
10 intervention methods. The services provided may include

- 11 (1) identifying and evaluating social problems;
- 12 (2) developing statistics and data on social problems;
- 13 (3) assisting people and organizations to solve problems  
14 relating to social functioning;
- 15 (4) client advocacy;
- 16 (5) developing community resources relating to social  
17 services;
- 18 (6) planning and administering social services programs;
- 19 (7) therapeutic counseling;
- 20 (8) consultation regarding social service programs and the  
21 provision of social services;
- 22 (9) training and supervising social workers under AS 08.-  
23 87.070(5).

24 (b) A social worker may practice psychotherapy only if the  
25 social worker is licensed as an independent social worker with a  
26 clinical specialty or as a master social worker and is employed and  
27 supervised in a clinical setting.

28 (c) A person may practice social work autonomously only if

- 29 (1) the person is licensed as an independent social worker;

1           (2) the board has approved the specialty in which the  
2 person may engage as a private practitioner and authorizes designation  
3 of the speciality on the person's license;

4           (3) the license bearing a designation of speciality is  
5 prominently displayed in the place the person engages in private  
6 practice; and

7           (4) the person limits the private practice of social work  
8 to the designated specialty.

9           Sec. 08.87.120. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board may provide  
10 for licensing a person as a bachelor, master or independent social  
11 worker without examination if the person

12           (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a  
13 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
14 tion;

15           (2) has an active license to practice social work in an-  
16 other licensing jurisdiction with requirements at the time of the  
17 original licensure that were similar to or higher than those of this  
18 state;

19           (3) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review  
20 procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a professional  
21 social worker association or regulatory authority;

22           (4) has not failed the examination of this state;

23           (5) has not previously had a license to practice social  
24 work revoked in this or another jurisdiction;

25           (6) submits proof of continued competence as required by  
26 regulation of the board; and

27           (7) pays all required fees.

28           Sec. 08.87.130. LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIRED. A license issued  
29 under this chapter lapses after 24 months unless it is renewed.

1           Sec. 08.87.140. FEES. The following fees are imposed under this  
2 chapter:

- 3           (1) application.....\$ 100
- 4           (2) initial license by examination..... 150
- 5           (3) license by credentials..... 100
- 6           (4) license renewal..... 200
- 7           (5) reexamination..... 150

8           ARTICLE 3. PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES.

9           Sec. 08.87.200. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR USE OF TITLE. (a) Unless  
10 licensed under this chapter, a person may not use the title "social  
11 worker" or a title, designation, or device indicating or tending to  
12 indicate that the person is a social worker or practices social work.  
13 A person may not use the letters "LBSW" as part of a title unless the  
14 person is licensed as a bachelor social worker under this chapter. A  
15 person may not use the letters "LMSW" as part of a title unless the  
16 person is licensed as a master social worker under this chapter. A  
17 person may not use the letters "LISW" as part of a title unless the  
18 person is licensed as an independent social worker under this chapter.  
19 Except as provided in (b) of this section, a person may not use the  
20 title "social worker intern" or "social worker student."

21           (b) A student enrolled in an accredited social work program may  
22 use the title "social worker intern" or "social worker student" if the  
23 person's activities constitute a part of the person's supervised  
24 course of study.

25           Sec. 08.87.210. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A social  
26 worker licensed under this chapter may not disclose information pro-  
27 vided to the social worker by a client in the course of their profes-  
28 sional contact. This prohibition does not apply if the

- 29           (1) client provides written consent to the social worker to

1 reveal the communication;

2 (2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal  
3 representative provides written consent to the social worker to reveal  
4 the communication;

5 (3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy  
6 on the client's life provides written consent to the social worker to  
7 reveal the communication;

8 (4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed  
9 or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

10 (5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the  
11 client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the social worker  
12 reveals the communication only during the course of an official exam-  
13 ination, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the  
14 crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

15 (6) client brings charges against the social worker and the  
16 social worker reveals the communication only as necessary to defend  
17 the charges;

18 (7) licensee is subpoenaed to testify in court concerning  
19 adult abuse, child abuse, or child neglect;

20 (8) licensee is collaborating or consulting with profes-  
21 sional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the  
22 client.

23 Sec. 08.87.220. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-  
24 TIONS. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction  
25 on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the  
26 licensee

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

29 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional

1 misrepresentation in the course of providing professional services or  
2 engaging in professional activities;

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

5 (4) has been convicted of a crime that has a substantial  
6 relationship to the licensee's activities and services or that affects  
7 the licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

8 (5) intentionally or negligently engaged in or permitted  
9 the performance of social work by persons under the licensee's super-  
10 vision that does not conform to minimum professional standards regard-  
11 less of whether actual injury occurred;

12 (6) failed to comply with this chapter, with a regulation  
13 adopted under this chapter, or with an order of the board;

14 (7) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

15 (A) professional incompetence;

16 (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or other  
17 drugs that may endanger the public by impairing the licensee's  
18 ability to practice;

19 (C) physical or mental disability;

20 (8) engaged in lewd or immoral conduct in connection with  
21 the deliver, of professional service;

22 (9) has been held liable for malpractice in a civil action;

23 (10) has had a license revoked in another jurisdiction.

24 Sec. 08.87.230. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a. When it finds that  
25 a licensee is guilty of an offense under AS 08.87.240, the board may  
26 impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

27 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

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

29 (3) censure a licensee;

1 (4) issue a letter of reprimand to the licensee;  
2 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the  
3 licensee to  
4 (A) report regularly to the board upon matters involv-  
5 ing the basis of probation;  
6 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;  
7 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-  
8 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas that are  
9 the basis of probation;  
10 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a  
11 licensee;  
12 (7) refuse to renew a license.  
13 (b) The board may withdraw probationary status if it finds that  
14 the deficiencies that required the sanction have been remedied.  
15 (c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final  
16 hearing or during the appeal process if the board finds that the  
17 licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and  
18 safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license  
19 is suspended under this section is entitled to a hearing by the board  
20 no later than seven days after the effective date of the order. The  
21 person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of compe-  
22 tent jurisdiction.  
23 (d) The board may reinstate a license that has been suspended or  
24 revoked if the board finds after a hearing that the applicant is able  
25 to practice with reasonable skill and safety.  
26 (e) The board shall seek consistency in the application of  
27 disciplinary sanctions. The board shall explain significant departure  
28 from prior decisions involving similar situations in findings of fact  
29 or orders.

1           Sec. 08.87.240. PENALTY. (a) A person who violates this chap-  
2           ter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

3           (b) The board may seek to enjoin or restrain a person not li-  
4           censed under this chapter or whose license is suspended, revoked or  
5           expired from violating this chapter.

6                           ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

7           Sec. 08.87.300. DEFINITION. In this chapter "board" means the  
8           Board of Social Worker Examiners.

9           \* Sec. 5. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:  
10                           (53) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

11           \* Sec. 6. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Act the  
12           governor shall appoint initial members to the Board of Social Worker Exam-  
13           iners. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.010 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act,  
14           initial members must consist of three persons who have a master's degree in  
15           social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the  
16           Council on Social Work Education, at least one of whom is engaged in the  
17           private practice of social work, one person with a bachelor's degree in  
18           social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the  
19           Council on Social Work Education, and one public member. Notwithstanding  
20           AS 08.87.020 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act, one initial member shall  
21           serve a one-year term, one initial member shall serve a two-year term, one  
22           initial member shall serve a three-year term, one initial member shall  
23           serve a four-year term, and one initial member shall serve a five-year  
24           term, as determined by the governor.

25           \* Sec. 7. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.87.100(a) as enacted in sec. 4 of  
26           this Act, a person may apply for and receive an original license as a  
27           bachelor social worker if the person

28                           (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social  
29           work program that is not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education

1 or a bachelor's or master's degree in a field related to social work and  
2 has been practicing under the title "social worker" for at least 24  
3 consecutive months before July 1, 1987; or

4 (2) meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(a)(1), (3) and (4).

5 (b) A person who does not meet the requirement under AS 08.87.100-  
6 (a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(b) may apply  
7 for and receive an original license as a master social worker.

8 (c) A person who does not meet the requirements under AS 08.87.-  
9 100(a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(c) may apply  
10 for and receive an original license as an independent social worker.

11 (d) An application for a license under this section must be filed  
12 before July 1, 1987.

13 \* Sec. 8. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.

Offered: 1/29/86  
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Fahrenkamp by request

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227 (Finance)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of social work and  
7 establishing the Board of Social Worker Examiners;  
8 and providing for an effective date."

9

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

10

\* Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to assure the consu-  
11 mer that persons providing services under the title "social worker" have  
12 completed professional social work education or training, adhere to a code  
13 of professional ethics, and are subject to licensure by the Board of Social  
14 Work Examiners.

15

\* Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

16

(25) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

17

\* Sec. 3. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

18

(21) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010) --

19

June 30, 1990.

20

\* Sec. 4. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21

CHAPTER 87. SOCIAL WORKERS.

22

ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS.

23

Sec. 08.87.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD. There is  
24 created a Board of Social Worker Examiners consisting of five members,  
25 including three licensed master social workers, one of whom is li-  
26 censed as an independent social worker, one licensed bachelor social  
27 worker, and one public member. The public member may not be licensed  
28 as a social worker, employed by a licensed social worker, or have a  
29 financial interest in the social work profession. To the extent  
S

1 possible members shall be appointed from different geographic regions  
2 of the state. A member who has served two successive full terms may  
3 not be reappointed until four years after the expiration of the second  
4 term.

5 Sec. 08.87.020. TERM OF OFFICE. Each member of the board serves  
6 for a term of four years and until the member's successor is appointed  
7 and qualified. An appointment to a vacancy is for the unexpired term.

8 Sec. 08.87.030. BOARD MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least  
9 once a year.

10 Sec. 08.87.040. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The board shall elect  
11 from among its members a chairperson and a secretary. Officers serve  
12 for a term not exceeding two years.

13 Sec. 08.87.050. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may  
14 remove a member of the board for cause. Unexcused absences from  
15 meetings are cause for removal as determined by the board.

16 Sec. 08.87.060. PER DIEM AND TRAVEL. Board members receive no  
17 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses author-  
18 ized for members of boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

19 Sec. 08.87.070. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall

20 (1) provide for the examination of eligible applicants for  
21 licenses under this chapter;

22 (2) submit an annual report of its proceedings to the  
23 governor, including recommended changes to this chapter and a state-  
24 ment of money received and disbursed;

25 (3) adopt nationally recognized specialty designations for  
26 the private practice of social work and authorize speciality desig-  
27 nations on licenses issued under this chapter;

28 (4) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions against  
29 a person who violates this chapter, an order of the board, or a

1 regulation of the board;

2 (5) adopt regulations relating to requirements for the  
3 supervision of persons engaged in social work under this chapter who  
4 are not licensed master social workers;

5 (6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued compe-  
6 tency before a license is renewed;

7 (7) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this  
8 chapter.

9 Sec. 08.87.080. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The Administrative  
10 Procedure Act (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under  
11 this chapter.

12 ARTICLE 2. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

13 Sec. 08.87.100. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) A person is  
14 eligible for a license as a bachelor social worker (LBSW) if the  
15 person

16 (1) is in good professional standing and is fit to practice  
17 social work as determined under regulations of the board;

18 (2) has satisfactorily completed the state examination for  
19 the license;

20 (3) provides three professional references to the board;

21 (4) has a bachelor's degree in social work from a school  
22 with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
23 Education.

24 (b) A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker  
25 (LMSW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this  
26 section and has a master's degree in social work from a school with a  
27 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
28 tion.

29 (c) A person is eligible for a license as an independent social

1 worker (LISW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of  
2 this section, has a master's degree in social work from a school with  
3 a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
4 tion, and has completed at least 24 months of supervised post-graduate  
5 experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in which  
6 the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

7 Sec. 08.87.110. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a  
8 bachelor, master, or independent social worker may provide services  
9 that enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social func-  
10 tioning whether impaired by physical, environmental, or emotional  
11 factors, guided by professional social work ethics, knowledge and  
12 intervention methods.

13 (b) A social worker may practice psychotherapy only if the  
14 social worker is licensed as an independent social worker with a  
15 clinical specialty or as a master social worker and is 'employee' and  
16 supervised in a clinical setting.

17 (c) A social worker may practice social work autonomously only  
18 if

19 (1) the person is licensed as an independent social worker;

20 (2) the board has approved the specialty in which the  
21 person may engage as a private practitioner and authorizes designation  
22 of the speciality on the person's license;

23 (3) the license bearing a designation of speciality is  
24 prominently displayed in the place the person engages in private  
25 practice; and

26 (4) the person limits the private practice of social work  
27 to the designated specialty.

28 Sec. 08.87.120. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall provide  
29 for licensing a person as a bachelor, master or independent social

1 worker without examination if the person

2 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a  
3 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-  
4 tion.

5 (2) has an active license to practice social work in an-  
6 other licensing jurisdiction with requirements at the time of the  
7 original licensure that were similar to or higher than those of this  
8 state;

9 (3) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review  
10 procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a professional  
11 social worker association or regulatory authority;

12 (4) has not failed the examination of this state;

13 (5) has not previously had a license to practice social  
14 work revoked in this or another jurisdiction;

15 (6) submit: proof of continued competence as required by  
16 regulation of the board; and

17 (7) pays all required fees.

18 Sec. 08.87.130. LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIRED. A license issued  
19 under this chapter shall be renewed in accordance with AS 08.01.100.

20 Sec. 08.87.140. FEES. An applicant for examination, reexamina-  
21 tion, or issuance or renewal of a license shall pay the fees estab-  
22 lished by the department under AS 08.01.065.

23 ARTICLE 3. PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES.

24 Sec. 08.87.200. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR USE OF TITLE. (a) Unless  
25 licensed under this chapter, a person may not use the title "social  
26 worker" or a title, designation, or device indicating or tending to  
27 indicate that the person is a social worker or practices social work.  
28 A person may not use the letters "LBSW" as part of a title unless the  
29 person is licensed as a bachelor social worker under this chapter. A

1 person may not use the letters "LMSW" as part of a title unless the  
2 person is licensed as a master social worker under this chapter. A  
3 person may not use the letters "LISW" as part of a title unless the  
4 person is licensed as an independent social worker under this chapter.  
5 Except as provided in (b) of this section, a person may not use the  
6 title "social worker intern" or "social worker student."

7 (b) A student enrolled in an accredited social work program may  
8 use the title "social worker intern" or "social worker student" if the  
9 person's activities constitute a part of the person's supervised  
10 course of study.

11 (c) A person who is not licensed under this chapter may use the  
12 title "associate social worker" or a similar title while the person is  
13 providing services as a social worker to the state or a political  
14 subdivision of the state under the supervision of a social worker li-  
15 censed under this chapter.

16 Sec. 08.87.210. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A social  
17 worker licensed under this chapter or an associate social worker may  
18 not disclose information provided to the social worker by a client in  
19 the course of their professional contact. This prohibition does not  
20 apply if the

21 (1) client provides written consent to the social worker to  
22 reveal the communication;

23 (2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal  
24 representative provides written consent to the social worker to reveal  
25 the communication,

26 (3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy  
27 on the client's life provides written consent to the social worker to  
28 reveal the communication;

29 (4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed

1 or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

2 (5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the  
3 client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the social worker  
4 reveals the communication only during the course of an official exam-  
5 ination, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the  
6 crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

7 (6) client brings charges against the social worker and the  
8 social worker reveals the communication only as necessary to defend  
9 the charges;

10 (7) social worker is subpoenaed to testify in court;

11 (8) social worker is collaborating or consulting with  
12 professional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the  
13 client;

14 (9) communication discloses information that the social  
15 worker is required by state or federal laws or regulations to dis-  
16 close.

17 Sec. 08.87.220. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-  
18 TIONS. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction  
19 on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the  
20 licensee

21 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional  
22 misrepresentation;

23 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-  
24 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in  
25 professional activities;

26 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-  
27 ing manner;

28 (4) has been convicted of a crime that has a substantial  
29 relationship to the licensee's activities and services or that affects

the licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

5) intentionally or negligently engaged in or permitted the performance of social work by persons under the licensee's supervision that does not conform to minimum professional standards regardless of whether actual injury occurred;

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

(7) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

(A) professional incompetence;

(B) addiction or dependence on alcohol or other drugs that may endanger the public by impairing the licensee's ability to practice;

(C) physical or mental disability;

(8) engaged in lewd conduct in connection with the delivery of professional service;

(9) has been held liable for malpractice in a civil action;

(10) has had a license revoked in another jurisdiction.

Sec. 08.87.230. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) If it finds that a licensee has committed an act set out in AS 08.87.220, the board may impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

(1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

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

(3) censure a licensee;

(4) issue a letter of reprimand to the licensee;

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

(A) report regularly to the board upon matters involving the basis of probation;

(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 that are  
3 the basis of probation;

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

6 (7) refuse to renew a license.

7 (b) The board may withdraw probationary status if it finds that  
8 the deficiencies that required the sanction have been remedied.

9 (c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final  
10 hearing or during the appeal process if the board finds that the  
11 licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and  
12 safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license  
13 is suspended under this section is entitled to a hearing by the board  
14 no later than seven days after the effective date of the order. The  
15 person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of compe-  
16 tent jurisdiction.

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

20 (e) The board shall seek consistency in the application of  
21 disciplinary sanctions. The board shall explain significant departure  
22 from prior decisions involving similar situations in findings of fact  
23 or orders.

24 Sec. 08.87.240. CRIMINAL PENALTY. A person who violates AS 08.-  
25 87.200 or 08.87.210 of this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemea-  
26 or.

27 Sec. 08.87.250. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The board may apply to the  
28 superior court for an order enjoining a person not licensed under this  
29 chapter or whose license is suspended, revoked, or expired from

1 violating this chapter.

2 ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

3 Sec. 08.87.300. DEFINITION. In this chapter "board" means the  
4 Board of Social Worker Examiners.

5 \* Sec. 5. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

6 (53) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

7 \* Sec. 6. Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act the  
8 governor shall appoint initial members to the Board of Social Worker Exam-  
9 iners. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.010 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act,  
10 initial members must consist of three persons who have a master's degree in  
11 social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the  
12 Council on Social Work Education, at least one of whom is engaged in the  
13 private practice of social work, one person with a bachelor's degree in  
14 social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the  
15 Council on Social Work Education, and one public member. Notwithstanding  
16 AS 08.87.020 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act, one initial member shall  
17 serve a one-year term, one initial member shall serve a two-year term, one  
18 initial member shall serve a three-year term, and two initial members shall  
19 serve four-year terms, as determined by the governor.

20 \* Sec. 7. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.87.100(a) as enacted in sec. 4 of  
21 this Act, a person may apply for and receive a license as a bachelor social  
22 worker if the person

23 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social  
24 work program that is not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education  
25 or a bachelor's or master's degree in a social sciences field related to  
26 social work as defined by the board, and has been practicing under the  
27 title "social worker" for at least 24 consecutive months before July 1,  
28 1988;

29 (2) meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(a)(1), (3) and (4);  
CSSB 227(Fin)

1 or

2 (3) has been practicing social work under the supervisor of a  
3 person eligible to be licensed under this Act for at least two years, and  
4 successfully completes the examination required by AS 08.87.100(a)(2).

5 (b) A person who does not meet the requirement under AS 08.87.100-  
6 (a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(b) may apply  
7 for and receive a license as a master social worker.

8 (c) A person who does not meet the requirements under AS 08.87.-  
9 100(a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(c) may apply  
10 for and receive a license as an independent social worker.

11 (d) An application for a license under this section must be filed  
12 before July 1, 1988.

13 \* Sec. 8. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.200, a person practicing social work  
14 on July 1, 1986, may use a title and letters as part of the title that  
15 indicate that the person is a social worker or practices social work until  
16 June 30, 1988, even if the person is not licensed under AS 08.87.100 or  
17 08.87.120.

18 \* Sec. 9. This Act takes effect July 1, 1986.  
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POSITION PAPER

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 424 (L & C)

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Board of Behavioral Science; amending Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence; and providing for an effective date."

This bill would establish a Behavioral Science Board composed of representatives of the American Marriage and Family Therapists, National Association of Social Workers, and Professional Counselors, which would set standards for these professions, provide for examination of eligible participants, adopt regulations for persons engaged in those professions and impose disciplinary sanctions. The bill would require that a person be licensed to use the titles: Marriage and Family Therapist, Social Worker and Professional Counselor. The bill regulates confidentiality and the disclosure of information. In relation to persons practicing social work, the bill allows for a two year transitional license for persons currently practicing who have 24 months experience, and for those who have 24 months social work experience and are currently administering programs which supervise social workers. To renew the license, these persons would be required to take an exam at the end of the two years.

The department supports a joint board approach to establishing a licensing board. The Department of Health and Social Services supports efforts to increase professional standards for social workers and other therapists. The department is currently seeking to increase the number of M.S.W. and B.S.W. employees engaged in agency social work, by taking administrative actions which encourage the hiring of these degreed professionals. In addition, the department believes that professional standards for social workers in the private sector would increase public confidence. The bill does present a number of complicated issues that have not been resolved quickly in other states. These areas require special scrutiny and analysis. This position paper first addresses two major issues, followed by a sectional analysis.

I. MAJOR DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES

A. Effect on Current State Employees:

There are currently 143 Division of Family and Youth Services social workers affected by the bill.

As of January 3, 1986, an educational review of staff qualifications of Division of Family and Youth Services' employees shows that of 143 social worker positions, 2 have Ph.D's, 32 have M.S.W. degrees, 20 have related master's degrees, 15 have B.S.W. degrees, and 57 have related bachelor's degrees. Approximately 50% of social work supervisors have M.S.W. degrees from an accredited social work school. 52% of social work employees have a BSW or above, which represents the agency's strong management effort to continue to improve the credentials of social work staff.

The bill does allow for a two year transitional license for "social workers" who do not meet all of the licensing standards, but who have degrees in social work or related fields and 24 months prior to July 1, 1988. It also allows for a two year transitional license for persons who have practiced social work for 24 months and have, for the 24 months prior to July 1, 1988, been employed in the administration of an agency which employs people under the title. All persons will be required to take an exam, to be determined by the board, at the end of this two year period. This exam requirement could result in a discriminatory situation for currently practicing social workers who practice in a specialized field and who did not attend schools of social work because none were available in Alaska. The department urges an amendment to allow already established state social workers the right to renew their licenses without exam and to continue to practice subject to disciplinary oversight of the new Board of Behavioral Sciences (as well as the supervision and monitoring by the department and "oversight" by the courts and the ombudsman).

B. Effect on State Hiring Practices, Including Local Hire and Affirmative Action Goals:

After the enactment of the bill, the department would be required to hire licensed social workers. After July 1, 1988, it may be difficult to fill all positions, whether public or private, with licensed social workers, especially in rural areas. The bill's strict educational requirements for licensure after July 1, 1988 may impede the state's long-term goals of employing paraprofessional employees and developing a career ladder for them. The department often hires Alaska Native "Social Services Associates" who may eventually become social workers. Many of these employees possess Alaska Native language skills essential to providing services in some rural areas of the state. The bill would probably prevent these persons from advancing beyond the paraprofessional level unless they leave their communities for further education.

II. SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

A. "Grandfathering"

This bill does not provide for an actual "grandfathering" of currently practicing social workers. It only allows for a two year transitional license. The details of the transitional license are in Section 13.

The department urges that Section 13 be revised to read:

Sec. 13 (a) Delete "transitional", add "renewable". The board shall issue a two year renewable license to practice a behavioral science to a person who applies within one year of the effective date of this section and who on that date either...

Sec. 13 (c) Delete "a two year transitional" and "to take the examination for a permanent license of the same category". Add "renew the license without examination". Notwithstanding any

provisions of new AS 08.15, a person who is issued a license under this section is eligible to renew the license without examination.

B. Financial Impact

Section 8.15.950 indicates that the department will set the fees for licensing. These fees could be very significant and costly to the state employee who does not currently pay any fee.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The department supports the concept of a behavioral science board which encompasses three of the counseling professions. Specifically, the department supports the licensure of social workers in both the public and private sector as an additional method to monitor quality and to protect the public, although the department believes accommodation should be made for persons currently employed as social workers. The department recommends that suggested changes in transitional licensure be made to provide for actual grandfathering of persons currently practicing.

RECOMMENDED: Michael L. Price  
Michael L. Price, Director  
Division of Family  
and Youth Services

DATE: 3/5/86

APPROVED: John R. Pugh  
John R. Pugh, Commissioner  
Department of Health  
and Social Services

DATE: 3/4/86

# STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST**

Bill/Resolution No. : CS HB 424 ( L & C )  
 Title : An Act establishing the Board of Behavioral Science; amending Rule 504 of the Alaska Rules of Evidence.  
 Sponsor : L & C  
 Requestor : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Request : 2/27/86

**FISCAL DETAIL**

Agency Affected : Health & Social Services  
 BRU : \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Components : \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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**FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**POSITIONS :**

FULL-TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** Attach a separate page if necessary

n/a

Prepared by : Michael L. Price *Michael L. Price* Phone : 465-3170  
 Division : Division of Family & Youth Services Date : 2/27/86 *JCC*

Approved by Commissioner : John R. Pugh *J.R. Pugh* Date : 3/6/86  
 Agency : Department of Health & Social Services

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)