

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SL&C 12648



# The Observer

VOLUME 18, No. 1/JANUARY 2008

Chugach Alaska Corp - Cordova District Fishermen United - OSREC - PWS Aquaculture Corp

## new legislative committee is formed, already faces fishing vessel problem

The council's Legislative Affairs committee for 2008, formed in December, is already focusing on what will become a major council issue: a requirement that fishing vessel crews pay unemployment taxes for crew members during oil-spill response training.

The six-seat committee, made up of council board members, monitors action items during the legislative session, advising the full council as needed. This year's members are Patience Andersen of Cordova, Steve Lewis of Kodiak, Blake Johnson of Kenai, John Veselko of Homer, John French of Kodiak, and Walt Parker of Anchorage. Veselko and Johnson are the chair and vice chair. The committee is supported by the council's legislative monitor, Doug Mertz.

The issue of unemployment insurance for fishing vessel crews surfaced in July, when the state Department of Labor began notifying vessel captains they were liable for the tax. In the past,

participants in Alyeska's fishing vessel program believed crews were exempt during oil-spill training, as they are when fishing.

But Erna Sturman, a field auditor for the labor department, wrote in the July 20 letter that "Alaska law does not exempt wages or shares paid to your employees while working in . . . oil spill drill operations."

Alyeska's program involves about 350 fishing vessels that would be available for cleanup operations in the event of a major oil spill. Alyeska pays the captains via contract, and the captains pay the crews. Those vessels are kept under contract and receive regular training so they can respond immediately to spills.

As the state's letter began circulating, the council started hearing concerns that captains might drop out rather than put up with the unemployment insurance paperwork for just a few days a

See page 2, **VESSELS**



**FISHING TOWN**—The council's September board meeting took place in Kodiak. Like most of the council's member communities, Kodiak is heavily dependent on commercial fishing. Photo by Tom Kuckertz

## Stephens leaving board after 18 years

Stan Stephens, who started service on the citizens' council board in 1990, resigned his seat at the start of this year.

He said in a letter announcing his resignation that he plans to continue his



and was elected president several times. His most recent term in the top post ended in May 2007.

Stephens, who was born and raised in Minnesota, has been in Alaska since 1961. He is the owner and

**work continues on tanker spill plans**

federal court and in the state courts of Texas and Alaska, as well as the U.S. District Court in Alaska, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, he teaches math at a private school in Anchorage.

When Skladal heard after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill that the citizens' council was forming a committee to oversee operations at the Valdez tanker terminal, he was one

In 1993, Skladal began taking art lessons—first painting, then drawing, and now sculpture and hand-thrown ceramics. It was a childhood interest, but one that he never had time to develop. His masterpieces can now be found on display at UAA, up for high bidding at fund raising events, or throughout his home.

Another hobby of his includes swimming 1,400 miles each year. And he plans to stick with that, too.

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## VESSELS: Fix may be in works

Continued from Page 1

year of oil-spill training.

The council conducted a survey of fishing vessel captains about the problem. Some said the paperwork was manageable; others were upset and said it could deter participation. "It's a royal pain," one of the captains complained. "It sure adds a lot of extra to a simple drill."

Because of the potential for disrupting the fishing vessel program, the council began looking into possible fixes, such as a change to state law. A bill has been introduced by Reps. John Harris of Valdez and Paul Seaton of Homer to exempt crews from the unemployment tax while in the fishing-vessel program.

But it's not clear that changing state law would be a complete solution. Unemployment

insurance is governed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, which may not allow the exemption envisioned in the Harris-Seaton bill.

That's according to Mertz, the legislative monitor. In a legal analysis, he wrote that "none of the exemptions in the federal law would exempt fishing vessels or their crew while acting as spill responders."

The state Department of Law is reportedly reviewing the state-federal jurisdictional issue, but no opinion had been released by Observer press time.

"We'd hate to see the fishing vessel program fall apart because of this problem," said John Devens, the council's executive director. "We'll do everything we can to help fix it, including taking it to the federal level if that turns out to be necessary."

The Observer

62  
**HEB**

**295**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/18/08

FURTHER: Rules

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

Labor and Commerce Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 295

## HB 295 RECORDED OR FILED DOCUMENTS

"An Act relating to the filing or recording of documents and records with the Department of Natural Resources, to the inspection and copying of filed and recorded documents, and to the filing of secured transaction records under the Uniform Commercial Code; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**SENATE BILL:**  
 Same Title  
 New Title

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**HOUSE BILL:**  
 Same Title  
 Technical Title Change  
 New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Inst.	Zero	NW

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Inst.	Zero	NW
DNR	2/14/08				✓

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND INITIALS	NAME	DATE	FISCAL	INST.	ZERO	NW
<i>Betty Davis</i>	DAVIS	X				
<i>[Signature]</i>	STEVEN	X				
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	ELIS	X				

# Alaska State Legislature

**Chairman**  
State Affairs Committee

**Vice-Chairman**  
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism  
Committee

**Member**  
Judiciary Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Corrections  
Labor and Workforce Development  
Military and Veterans' Affairs  
Public Safety



*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
**District 31 Anchorage**

**E-Mail: [Representative\\_Bob\\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us)**  
**"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" [RepBobLynnBlog.com](http://RepBobLynnBlog.com)**

**Session:**  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Phone:** (907) 465-4031  
**Fax:** (907) 465-4316  
**Toll Free:** (800) 870-4391

**Interim:**  
716 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

**Phone:** (907) 269-0205  
**Fax:** (907) 269-0217

## **Sectional Analysis** **HB 295** *Recorded of Filed Documents*

**Section 1:** Amends AS 40.17, so that the original documents may be immediately returned to the presenter after recording. In addition, the change allows the Recorder's office to electronically return a document that was electronically submitted, rather than having to return the original document to the person designated on the document. This section also requires that the document contain the name of the recording district in which the document is to be recorded, rather than allowing the recording district to be stated verbally or in a cover letter.

**Section 2:** Updates AS 40.25.120 (c) by removing a requirement that the recorder furnish facilities for the purpose of photocopying public records for title plant purposes. This requirement was needed at one time due to extreme backlogs in processing documents, which is no longer needed because the recorder's office is able to meet the current demand for information. Updating this section will also remove reference to direction by the court as the recorder's office is no longer under its oversight.

**Section 3:** Authorizes the department to adopt regulations that specify which forms to be used for certain UCC filings.

**Section 4:** Allows the department to reject documents submitted for filing that are not on an approved form.

**Section 5:** Eliminates the use of outdated UCC forms currently pre-printed in their entirety in statute. These older forms require the disclosure of social security numbers which is not a requirement for filing the forms.

**Section 6:** Allows the department to proceed, prior to the effective date of the remaining sections of the bill, to promulgate regulations that could be in place by the bill's effective date.

**Section 7:** Allows the preceding Section 6, to occur immediately.

**Section 8:** Effective date is July 1, 2008.

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Joint Armed Services Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Corrections  
Labor and Workforce Development  
Military and Veterans' Affairs  
Public Safety



*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
District 31 Anchorage

**E-Mail: [Representative\\_Bob\\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us)**  
**"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" [RepBobLynnBlog.com](http://RepBobLynnBlog.com)**

**Session:**  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1142

**Phone (907) 465-4911**  
**Fax (907) 465-4316**  
**Toll Free (800) 870-4391**

**Interim:**  
716 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

**Phone (907) 269-0205**  
**Fax (907) 269-0207**

## **Sponsor Statement** **HB 295** ***Recorded or Filed Documents***

Advancing technological improvements in the Recorder's office are reaching the point to allow "instant recordation." This Recorder's Office 'clean-up' bill amends three areas in statute to:

- Enable the return of original documents to the presenter at the time of recording
- Ensure all required recording information is located on the document
- Delete reference to providing facilities for outside entities to film or scan daily recordings
- Remove references to court authority over the Recorder's Office
- Update UCC forms referenced in statute to conform with national standards

The bill would also require that documents presented for recording contain the name of the recording district in which the document is to be recorded. Currently this information may be provided verbally or in a cover letter. The proposed change would reduce paperwork and simplify document retention because there would no longer be a need to convert verbal instructions into written instructions or to film and retain a cover letter or additional instructions concerning the recording district.

**HEB**

**297**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/27/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/8/08

Labor and Commerce Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 297(RLS)

## HB 297 PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

"An Act relating to student permits authorized by the Board of Veterinary Examiners; and relating to the application of certain statutes pertaining to veterinarians and veterinary practice to certain persons."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**SENATE BILL:**

- Same Title
- New Title

**HOUSE BILL:**

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Inst	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Inst	Zero	FN#
DCCED	2/17/08				

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

NAME	LAST NAME				
Bettye Davis	DAVIS	X			
<i>[Signature]</i>	STEWART			X	
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	ELLIS	X			

# Alaska State Legislature

**Session Address:**

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-2679  
Toll-Free: 1-800-505-2678  
Fax: (907) 465-4822

**Interim Address:**

600 E. Railroad Avenue  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone: (907) 376-2679  
Fax: (907) 376-4745

Representative.Mark.Neuman@legis.state.ak.us

## ***Representative Mark A. Neuman***

*District 15*

### **SPONSOR STATEMENT – HB 297**

**"An Act relating to student permits authorized by the Board of Veterinary Examiners; and relating to the application of certain statutes pertaining to veterinarians and veterinary practice to certain persons."**

Due to changes in veterinary medicine over the past few years, updates are now required to align Alaska statutes with current standards of veterinary practice. The statutes governing the practice of veterinary medicine were last updated in 1998; consequently, the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Department of Commerce have recommended modernization of the statutes in order to utilize all the technology that has been developed in the past 10 years.

HB 297 will amend the licensing statutes to allow veterinary medical students in their final year of graduate studies to return to the state to work under the supervision of an Alaska licensed veterinarian. Currently, there is no provision in Alaska statutes that would allow a student enrolled in an accredited college to experience the practice of veterinary medicine in the state. Veterinary programs routinely require participation in an externship program prior to graduation, forcing students to seek externships outside of Alaska. Providing for a student permit creates an incentive for students to gain supervised practice and training in Alaska, receive credit for work experience, and an opportunity to return to Alaska after graduation to practice as fully licensed veterinarians.

HB297 provides exemptions that have long been recognized in the Veterinary Practice Acts of most other states. Monies and time currently spent in obtaining temporary licenses for veterinarians engaged in wildlife research could be redirected towards needed sample collection and analysis costs. Out-of-jurisdiction veterinarians providing consultations by telephone or e-mail or temporary assistance/training for the purpose of providing skills not otherwise available in this state could do so through the request of an Alaska licensed veterinarian.

Legislation has been introduced through a coordinated effort between the Alaska Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. These changes will enhance the high standard of veterinary care provided in Alaska while attracting new veterinary practitioners to the State.

Contact: Beth Schneider  
(907) 465-2679

Version 25-LS0357W

March 28, 2008

# Alaska State Legislature

**Session Address:**

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-2679  
Toll-free: 1-800-505-2678  
Fax: (907) 465-4822

**Interim Address:**

600 E. Railroad Avenue  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone: (907) 376-2679  
Fax: (907) 376-4745

Representative.Mark.Neuman@legis.state.ak.us

## *Representative Mark A. Neuman*

*District 15*

### SECTIONAL ANALYSIS – HB 297

"An Act relating to student permits authorized by the Board of Veterinary Examiners; and relating to the application of certain statutes pertaining to veterinarians and veterinary practice to certain persons."

- Section 1.** Adds the issuance of student permits to the powers and duties of the Board of Veterinary Examiners.
- Section 2.** Adds the mailing of student permits to the duties of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.
- Section 3.** Exempts certain persons from the provisions of AS 08.98. (Veterinarians).
- Section 4.** Allows the board to approve the issuance of student permits to certain qualified applicants and provides limitations for the holders of these permits.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 297(L&C)  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/13/08

Identifier (file name): HB297-CED-OL-01-22-07  
 Title: Practice of Veterinary Medicine

Dept. Affected: DCCED  
 RDU: Corp, Bus & Prof Licensing (117)  
 Component: Corp, Bus & Prof Licensing

Sponsor: Neuman  
 Requester: House Labor & Commerce

Component Number: 2360

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

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

This legislation amends AS 08.98 Veterinarians to provide for student externships and to clarify the definition of practicing veterinary medicine. It is not anticipated to impact the operations of the division. Licensing programs are required to cover costs with licensing fees under AS 08.01.065.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Officer  
 Division: Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing  
 Approved by: Emil R. Notti, Commissioner  
Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone (907) 485-2572  
 Date/Time 1/22/08 5:16 PM  
 Date 1/22/2007

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
OFFICE OF THE STATE VETERINARIAN**

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

5251 Hinkle Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
PHONE: (907) 375-8200  
FAX: (907) 929-7335  
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/>  
Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov

January 25, 2008

The Honorable John Harris  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Harris:

I am writing this letter not only as the State Veterinarian responsible for maintaining the Alaska Animal Health Regulations, but also as a licensed veterinary practitioner.

Because of the unique and diverse training, veterinarians play key roles in food production and safety and the maintenance of both animal and public health. Nationally we are dealing with a shortage of veterinarians and in Alaska, due to the vast extent of the land and dispersion of the population, the effects are more obvious. In Washington D.C., the U.S. Congress is trying to address this problem by passing the National Veterinary Service Act. It is time that Alaska update the Veterinary Licensing Regulations to help support the practice of quality veterinary medicine and to come into compliance with most other states and the American Veterinary Medical Association National Model Veterinary Practice Act. The Alaska State Veterinary Practice Act (HB297) that is being presented to the state legislature will not only update the regulations but also help to address the need to support veterinary practitioners in the state so they can provide the best care to the residents and animal resources of the state. I strongly encourage the passage of HB 297.

The amendments to the Alaska State Veterinary Practice Act (HB 297) will allow for improved care of domestic animals, both pets and livestock, as well as wildlife through an increased availability of professional consultations from veterinary specialists. Pet populations are growing and animals are becoming an integral part of our lives giving emotional support and companionship. Animals are not only important for companionship and recreational purposes (mushing and skijoring) but also as professional working partners (police and military working dogs, guide dogs, search and rescue animals, and bomb/drug detection dogs). This bill will allow veterinary instructors and specialists to set up training opportunities for Alaskan veterinarians so that they may keep on the cutting edge of technology and allow these specialists to provide treatment clinics for animals with out the burden of applying and paying for temporary licensing.

One of our most important resources in the state is the wildlife. Wild animals are valued by tourist, recreational and subsistence hunters, and recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishermen. The management of wildlife populations and research programs involving certain threatened and endangered species (Stellar Eiders and marine mammals) in Alaska is critical. Since there are even fewer expert wildlife veterinarians available in the United States this act will allow greater access and training for resident veterinarians and researchers.

HB 297 will exempt student interns and veterinarians employed by the State and federal government from requiring a veterinary license to perform veterinary medical services, either under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian or within the scope their official duties. This will not only help to provide support to private practitioners but will also provide opportunities to veterinary students and interns to experience the challenges of practice in Alaska. This experience can provide a unique and valuable opportunity for veterinary students and interns as well as help attract future veterinarians to the state. Veterinarians employed by the military and federal and state agencies ultimately increase the quality and range of veterinary services (regulatory medicine, public health, food safety, and environmental health) available to all Alaskans. These special situations have long been recognized in the Veterinary Practice Acts of most other states and our Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has been working with the staff at the Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing to develop these proposed changes which will bring Alaska's statutes up to date and able to recognize these special needs.

It is my hope that you support this bill and move it towards speedy passage during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Gerlach, VMD  
State Veterinarian

Steven M. Torrence D.V.M.  
4433 Windfall Ave  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907 789-7551  
907 209-4116  
[smtdvm@hotmail.com](mailto:smtdvm@hotmail.com)

Rep. Mark Neuman  
Vice Chair, House Labor and Commerce Committee  
State Capital Room 432  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Neuman,

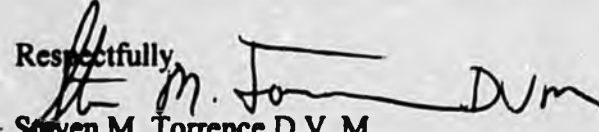
I am happy to support House Bill 297. This bill is the work not only of the present members of the Board of Veterinary Examiners (The Board) and the Department of Commerce but also by previous board members who started the work resulting in this bill. It is the goal of the Board to modernize the statutes regarding the practice of veterinary medicine in the state of Alaska. We considered recommendations and examples of other state practice acts through our membership in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards as well as the special needs and situations that arise with veterinary practice here in Alaska.

There have been many changes in veterinary medicine since the Alaska veterinary statutes were first written. Antibiotics have come into more common use and the dangers of antibiotic sensitivity and the impacts upon animal and human public health have become well known. High speed travel has resulted in rapid transport and dissemination of emerging and foreign infectious diseases for which veterinarians act as sentinels. Modern electronics and the internet have changed and improved the way medical professionals consult, diagnose and treat patients.

Besides providing medical care to pets and farm animals, veterinarians are involved in a diverse range of practice, including; public health, wildlife and marine mammal medicine, research, teaching, and regulatory issues. House Bill 297 will help update the Veterinary Practice Act to reflect advances in medicine, and standards of care, as well as changes in the demographics within the profession.

I believe that the changes House Bill 297 will bring about are positive for citizens and animal welfare. I appreciate any help you can provide in the passage of this bill. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

  
Steven M. Torrence D.V. M.  
Chair, Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners



January 31, 2008

**To: Alaska House of Representatives  
Labor and Commerce Committee**

**Re: House Bill 297**

**I would like to express my support of House Bill 297. I have been a practicing veterinarian in Alaska for the past 10 years and a member of the Alaska State Board of Veterinary Examiners for the past 5 years.**

**During my tenure on the board I have become aware of some shortcomings of our current veterinary practice act. Veterinary Medicine has progressed considerably since I began professional practice in 1980. We now have diagnostic abilities in my practice, Soldotna Animal Hospital, that were not even available at a university level when I began my career. My associates and myself routinely consult over the Internet by means of the Veterinary Information Network. We transmit ECG's by telephone and consult directly with board certified veterinary cardiologists in New York. In my practice we perform flexible and rigid videoendoscopy and capture digital images that can be transmitted electronically. The abilities of today's professionals and expectations of today's clients are unlike those in times past. Our practice act needs to be updated to reflect these changes.**

**It is in the best interest of the people of Alaska to enable veterinarians to consult with professionals outside our state, Progressive veterinarians need the ability to legally consult with veterinary specialists outside our state to utilize outside expertise to assist our patients.**

**It is also beneficial to enable veterinary researchers and professionals to assist in ongoing projects at the Alaska Sea Life Center and other government entities. Our legislation exempts these researchers who give their time to assist with wildlife in our state.**

Although we do not have the population base to have our own College of Veterinary Medicine, there are veterinary students who seek out excellent veterinary practices in our state to partner in their professional education through official externship programs. In my practice in Soldotna we have hosted several veterinary students from different colleges of veterinary medicine. It is important that we can participate in the education process. It is beneficial to our practices to maintain a quality of practice that is attractive to senior veterinary students. These advanced students are the veterinarians of tomorrow. Our state will continue to need veterinarians to care for the animals in the homes of our people and this group of students will be an important resource for Alaska's future.

I also strongly support including a provision to include alternative and complementary medicine in the veterinary practice act including manual and manipulative therapy, acupuncture, acupressure, acupunctuure, acutheraapy and homeopathy. These modalities may be of benefit to our animals but should be under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

I have been very pleased to serve the people of the state of Alaska on the Board of Veterinary Examiners for the past 5 years. I truly believe that my most important contribution during my tenure on the board has been to assist in developing this legislation. I humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely,



Timothy L. Bowser D.V.M.  
Soldotna Animal Hospital

R B Heath  
4920 Crest Rd  
Seven Seven Anesthesia Consulting  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
970-226-3559  
rheathdvm@aol.com

Alaska Board of Veterinary Medicine  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Corporations  
Business and Professional Licensing  
PO Box 110806  
Juneau, AK 99811-0806

12 Mar2008

Dear Sirs.

I am a veterinary anesthesiology specialist consultant. I do not take out a yellow pages ad, hang out a shingle anywhere, nor practice for any public persons in the sense of other veterinarians. I am a sole proprietor and advise biologists and wildlife veterinarians in Alaska by equipment support, phone, e-mail and in person. I have given talks previously at Alaska State continuing education meetings. I was a professor at Colorado State University and taught most of the veterinarians involved in your former WICHE program.

The AVMA published practice acts appearing on page 297 Section 6, of the AVMA Directory, show consultation as an allowed mission. The example practice act further allows fairly free passage for governmental teams to perform their work for the benefit of your missions throughout the state. I work solely for governmental units. Alaska, we know, did not completely adopt these nationally stated and/or suggested guides. Alaska in their regulation does not allow reciprocity with my state licensure.

As I read your web site, I have been in violation of Alaskan rules for the past 15 years.

In the last year, Alaska Fish & Game, and other units working on your wildlife problems, have pointed out the difference in your practice regulations and now require consultants and government employees to have an Alaska permanent or temporary license, which is outside of the intent of the national practice act. It is really strange that they NEED some outside help which we have provided in the past and will need more advice in the future, but we no longer can provide such specialized help.

It is a problem that I contest as an honest consultant trying to help with requests for special advice on problems. I question the wisdom of using the practice acts to exclude myself and other consultants from helping your veterinarians solve pertinent problems by requiring an Alaska license to do any further work for them. The problem is larger than just my one instance, however. Large numbers of government biologists and technicians, who are not veterinarians are working on animals throughout the state, including most wildlife species. Some are qualified or have at least some experience, however all are "un-licensed". Many are working after simply "watching" a consultant such as myself without specific, formal training. They simply happen to be the technician or primary investigator for some major research funded project. They are surgically removing teeth, biopsy samples, skin, blubber, fat and muscle. They inject capture drugs, isotopes, antibiotics and hormones and then take multiple blood samples and interpret the results for publication and reports. In my opinion that is a larger practice license question than my specialized advising and consulting for many of these projects. It is

conceivable that significant problems may occur when a board certified specialist in anesthesia is naively replaced by a technician or veterinarian with no advanced qualifications other than just having an Alaskan license. I answer telephone requests on a regular basis from these technicians asking what to do to make some drug or piece of equipment work the way it was working when I left the project in their hands last year. I point this out in the next paragraph where we are working with an endangered species, under specific permit from federal programs.

This coming year, there are some projects proposed which will take considerable more risk and expertise, and will include anesthetizing large sea lion bulls on the docks in Kodiak. The equipment must be specially made and professionally used. The equipment is not available at Fish and Game or Sealife Center. The project involves National Marine Fisheries units out of Seattle which has huge involvement with your whole fisheries industry. Considerable expense, expertise and equipment have been set up in preparation for this work. We are researching the health of the oceans and have spent several years even getting the permits to work with Stellers sea lions. Now, we have this obstacle proposed which interrupts the project completely. It is a stipulation for us to spend extra money trying to secure and maintain a license which seems completely unnecessary to the mission and does not really involve protecting the citizens of Alaska which is your true objective. I have been told that each trip I make as a consultant will have to have a separate temporary license at considerable expense to each project.

In conclusion, I and other veterinarians, notably Drs Pam Tuomi and Dan Mulcahy in a letter dated 9 Oct, 2005 to the Vet Board, would like to point out some advantages to your pursuit of amending the practice act. In a simple adoption of the national standard you would assure yourselves of professional help for the allowed governmental projects. You would bring Alaska in line with several other states where these same projects are being researched on the same species by the same biology teams, thereby giving valuable continuity to these vital federal programs. Your statewide wildlife needs would benefit from being able to place professional people in their work loads, and allow personal on the scene help instead of perceived emergency telephone calls from unlicensed technicians behind the scenes doing most of the veterinary work.

Respectively for your consideration,

R Bruce Heath DVM MSc  
Dip Am College of Vet Anesthesia  
Professor Emeritus Colorado St University

cc:

Dr. Steve Torrence, Southeast Alaska Animal Medical Center, 4433 Windfall Ave, Juneau, Ak 99801.

Dr Pam Tuomi AK Sealife Center 601 Railway Ave. PO Box Seward AK.

Don Calkins AK Sealife Center Chief Coordinator Marine Mammal Programs

Drs Tom Gellat, Bob DeLong and Brian Fadely National Marine Mammal Labs Seattle

Dr Kimberly Beckman AK F&G Fairbanks, AK

---

**From:** Dr. Jean Battig [jb dental@mosquitonet.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2008 12:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Beth Schneider  
**Subject:** HB 297 Veterinary bill  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Hi David and Joe,

I'm in your district and what to say first of all, thanks for everything you both are doing and I support your endeavors. Specifically, I am in support of HB297. We need to get veterinarians up to Alaska. Fairbanks, right now, is short on veterinarians. It's always been difficult to get vets up here and keep them. I really think it would help if we could get 4<sup>th</sup> year vet students up here, an adventure for them and it introduces them to us so maybe they'll come back and work here, we need the support!

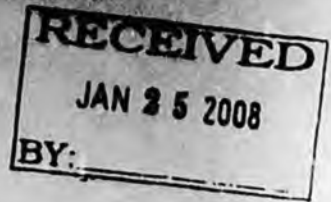
Another part of the bill deals with getting consultants and vets of for special projects (research, wildlife and bird issues, etc) up here without a burden of red tape and cost. For example, this year and several years past a team of two veterinarian internal medicine specialists and their techs have come up to do research on the Iditarod dogs before and after the race. Their data will help us find out why some dogs die on the race, something we'd really like to eliminate. They're finding out about gastric ulcers that occur (last year a dog died from a perforated ulcer) and how to treat it.

Anyway, that's just one example of getting help from the lower 48 for some of our problems. It is very helpful when these knowledgeable people are will to come up here and help us. It makes it a lot harder if they have to jump through licensing hoops and costs and sometimes they don't come because of it.

So, this bill would help us out a lot,

Thanks,

Dr. Jean Battig  
Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic  
720 Chena Ridge Rd  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709



Cynthia A. Trout, DVM  
5131 Manytell Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

January 21, 2008

I am writing to give my support to House Bill 297. As a member of the Alaska State Board of Veterinary Examiners, it is my goal to see that veterinary medicine is practiced to the highest standard in Alaska. In the Board's review of Alaska's Veterinary Practice Act (Act), we found many items that needed to be updated and/or changed. As one can imagine with the many advances in medicine every day, the Act needs periodic revision to keep up with the times.

One important change is having the ability to work with veterinary specialists from other states to help with wildlife studies conducted by private and government institutions. These specialists bring valuable expertise that Alaska needs to assist with many protected species, as well as helping care for stranded and injured marine life that the Alaska SeaLife Center handles each year. The exemption that allows out-of-state veterinary specialists easier access to our state will help insure that these programs are successful.

A second change that is needed to the Act has to do with the regulation of student permits and externships, which allow veterinary students to become acquainted with Alaska and the practice of veterinary medicine here. Because we are a state without a veterinary school, such a program is necessary to help recruit veterinarians in the future, while also regulating their activities here.

The Board of Veterinary Examiners has put considerable time and effort into the proposed revisions to the Act. These changes are responsive to the current needs of Alaska, and will help keep our standard of practice of veterinary medicine in Alaska current and progressive. I fully support House Bill 297.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Trout DVM".

Cynthia A. Trout, DVM

**From:** Dr. Dave Hunt [sitkavet@alaska.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2008 4:17 PM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman; 'Donohue, Brenda A (CED)'  
**Subject:** Support for house bill 297

David J. Hunt DVM  
209 Jarvis street  
Sitka AK 99835  
907-747-7387  
[sitkavet@alaska.com](mailto:sitkavet@alaska.com)

I am writing to you to support House Bill 297. I have practiced veterinary medicine in the state of Alaska for over 12 years and have served on the board of veterinary examiners for 6 years. During this time period the practice of veterinary medicine has changed dramatically and yet our practice act has not been changed to reflect this. For this reason, my fellow board members and I have worked many hours to draft changes to our practice act to keep up with the advances in veterinary medicine.

House Bill 297 allows certain exemptions for the practice of veterinary medicine that is crucial to the study of avian influenza and other diseases that can spread throughout the world. By giving exemptions to federal veterinarians to work on wildlife it will allow veterinarians instead of biologist to surgically implant tracking devices to study migrations of birds and other wildlife. Without this bill biologist that are not qualified to do these surgeries have been doing them because of our current practice act.

House Bill 297 will also help students work with veterinarians in a practice environment. It will allow a veterinarian to supervise students and in doing so ensure that Alaska will have veterinarians for future generations. Our current practice act does not address this issue, leaving students of accredited veterinary schools to pursue externships in other states.

The veterinary board asks your support for this important bill. If you have any questions regarding this bill please feel free to contact me.

David J Hunt DVM  
Sitka Animal Hospital

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**From:** F.R. Conniff [osuvet2003@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 10:17 AM  
**To:** Beth Schneider  
**Cc:** Jenny Strickler  
**Subject:** HB 297

**Dear Representative Neuman**

**I am Frederick Conniff, DVM, Alaska License 512.**

**I wanted to take a moment to lend my support to HB 297. I think it will help us recruit the best of the graduates from the programs around the country to practice veterinary medicine in Alaska.**

**Thank you for your support. F.R. Conniff, DVM**

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**Never miss a thing. [Make Yahoo your homepage.](#)**

**From:** Pam Tuomi [pamt@alaskasealife.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 7:53 PM  
**To:** Sue Gullufsen  
**Cc:** Beth Schneider  
**Subject:** HB297

As a 38 year Alaskan resident, veterinary small animal clinic owner and practicing veterinarian active in marine wildlife research, I strongly encourage the passage of House Bill 297.

These amendments to the Alaska State Veterinary Practice Act have been long overdue and will allow for improved care of our animal patients through an increased availability of professional consultations in a state with few resident specialists. Our wildlife management and research programs will have freer access to the small pool of expert wildlife veterinarians available in the United States and monies and time previously spent in obtaining "temporary" licenses for veterinarians supporting wildlife research could be redirected towards needed sample collection and analysis costs. Recognition of the special position of veterinary students and of veterinarians employed by the military and Federal and state agencies will avoid confusion and ultimately increase the quality and range of veterinary services available to all Alaskans. These special situations have long been recognized in the Veterinary Practice Acts of most other states and our Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has been working with the staff at the Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing to develop these proposed changes to bring Alaska's statutes up to date and able to recognize these special needs.

I commend Representative Neuman and will be encouraging my legislators to vote in support of this bill and move it towards speedy passage during the upcoming legislative session.

Pam Tuomi, D.V.M.  
Senior Veterinarian  
Alaska SeaLife Center  
P.O. Box 1329  
Seward, AK 99664

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**From:** Sue Gullufsen  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2008 10:51 AM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman  
**Subject:** FW: HB0297

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**From:** Karpovich, Shawna A (DFG) [mailto:shawna.karpovich@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2008 8:48 AM  
**To:** Sue Gullufsen  
**Subject:** HB0297

As a wildlife biologist, I completely agree with what Dr. Tuomi of the Alaska Sea Life Center wrote:

"These amendments to the Alaska State Veterinary Practice Act have been long overdue and will allow for improved care of our animal patients through an increased availability of professional consultations in a state with few resident specialists. Our wildlife management and research programs will have freer access to the small pool of expert wildlife veterinarians available in the United States, and monies and time previously spent in obtaining temporary licenses for veterinarians supporting wildlife research could be redirected towards needed sample collection and analysis costs. Recognition of the special position of veterinary students and of veterinarians employed by the military and Federal and state agencies will avoid confusion and ultimately increase the quality and range of veterinary services available to all Alaskans.

These special situations have long been recognized in the Veterinary Practice Acts of most other states and our Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has been working with the staff at the Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing to develop these proposed changes which will bring Alaska's statutes up to date and able to recognize these special needs.

I commend Representative Neuman and will be encouraging my legislators to vote in support of this bill and move it towards speedy passage during the upcoming legislative session."

Thanks,

Shawna Karpovich  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Wildlife Conservation  
Harbor Seal Program  
1300 College Rd.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

ph: (907)459-7239  
fax: (907)459-7332

---

**From:** DocBob [docbob@acsalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2008 10:55 PM  
**To:** Beth Schneider; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. Craig Johnson; Sue Gullufsen  
**Subject:** House Bill 297

**Dear Representative Neuman, Senator McGuire, Representative Johnson, and Sue Gullufsen,:**

As a 31 year Alaskan resident, research parasitologist, and adjunct professor of biology at Wayland Baptist University, I strongly encourage the passage of House Bill 297.

I have had the opportunity to work with the veterinary community in Alaska, California, and Florida over the past 50 years on a wide variety of research projects was a senior fishery biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and have consulted with the staff at the Alaska Sea Life Center.

These amendments to the Alaska State Veterinary Practice Act have been long overdue and will allow for improved care of our animal patients through an increased availability of professional consultations in a state with few resident specialists. Our wildlife management and research programs will have freer access to the small pool of expert wildlife veterinarians available in the United States, and monies and time previously spent in obtaining temporary licenses for veterinarians supporting wildlife research could be redirected towards needed sample collection and analysis costs. Recognition of the special position of veterinary students and of veterinarians employed by the military and Federal and state agencies will avoid confusion and ultimately increase the quality and range of veterinary services available to all Alaskans. These special situations have long been recognized in the Veterinary Practice Acts of most other states and our Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has been working with the staff at the Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing to develop these proposed changes which will bring Alaska's statutes up to date and able to recognize these special needs.

I commend Representative Mark Neuman for his vision in this important matter and strongly encourage my legislators to vote in support of this bill and move it towards speedy passage during the upcoming legislative session.

Most respectfully,

Robert O. Baker, Ph.D., Cdr. USN (ret)  
840 Breakwater Cir.  
Anchorage, AK 99515-3632

3/26/2008

**Beth Schneider**

---

**From:** devonyl@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2008 2:47 PM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Neuman  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\*

**Re HB 297**

This email is in support of HB 297, which would enable veterinarians to bring to Alaska 4th-year veterinarian students to assist with vet work in Alaska. I am a horse owner in Homer. I very much value the recreational activities I am able to pursue with my horses, which provide both physical and psychological benefits. In addition, I strongly support any legislative action that promotes equine-assisted therapeutic programs in Alaska, such as those certified by NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) and EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association). Interacting with horses has been shown to promote emotional, psychological, and physical healing and well being in unique and often profound ways. In smaller communities, finding vets with training in horse care can be difficult; HB 297 would help alleviate this problem and facilitate the care of horses throughout the state.

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# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

Commercial and Fair Business Section  
P.O. BOX 110300  
DIMOND COURT HOUSE, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300  
PHONE: (907) 465-3600  
FAX: (907) 465-2539

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Mark Neuman  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 432  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: CSHB 297 L&C; Practice of Veterinary Medicine

Dear Representative Neuman:

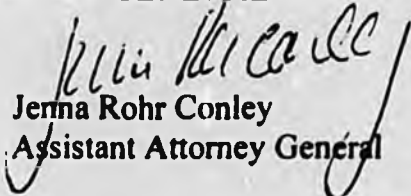
I was contacted by your assistant Beth Schneider regarding an amendment to CSHB 297 L&C; Practice of Veterinary Medicine. After reviewing the amendment, 25-LS0357 K.2/K.2, it is my legal advice that the amendment is not necessary. AS 03.55.110 already provides that a person, and person includes a veterinarian, veterinary technician, or student permittee, may file a report of animal abuse. The amendment singles out veterinary licensees and unnecessarily describes a right they have that is the same right available to any person.

There is no need to exempt veterinary licensees through this amendment from any regulations created by the Board of Veterinary Examiners regarding client confidentiality. Section 7 amends AS 08.98.050 and discusses "a standard for the practice of veterinary medicine established by regulation adopted by the board," there is no assurance that the current Board of Veterinary Examiners or any future Board might not repeal any regulation regarding confidentiality. Should you have any further questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

TALIS J. COLBERG  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

  
Jerna Rohr Conley  
Assistant Attorney General

JRC:ade

cc: Russ Kelly, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor  
Mike Ford, Legislative Contact, Department of Law.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Voluntary reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians  
(CSHB 297( ); Work Order No. 25-LS0357\L)

**TO:** Representative Mark Neuman  
Attn: Beth Schneider

**FROM:** Alpheus Bullard *TLAB*  
Legislative Counsel

Pursuant to a March 7, 2008 memorandum sent to your office, which addressed whether a veterinarian could be statutorily required to report cruelty to animals, you now ask whether a veterinarian may currently report suspected instances of animal cruelty or if veterinarian-client privilege restricts a veterinarian from doing so.

It is my legal opinion that there is not a recognized veterinarian-client testimonial privilege or other legal barrier in Alaska statute or regulation that currently serves to prevent a veterinarian from voluntarily reporting a suspected instance of animal cruelty.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TLAB:ljw  
08-141.ljw

**Dana Owen**

---

**From:** Nelson Priddy [drpriddy@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 05, 2008 6:26 AM  
**To:** Dana Owen  
**Cc:** Beth Schneider  
**Subject:** HB297

Dear Mr. Owen:

Tom in Senator Davis' office suggested that I send you this letter because you are Senator Ellis' aid. I hope that you will be kind enough to bring it to the attention of the members of the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Respectfully,

Nelson H. Priddy II, DVM  
Diplomate American College of Veterinary Surgeons  
President Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association

Dear Senators Ellis, Davis, Bunde, Stevens and Hoffman:

On April 5<sup>th</sup> HB297 will come before the Labor and Commerce Committee. This pertains to the Veterinary Practice Act. As president of the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA) which represents the majority of practicing veterinarians in the State of Alaska, I want to be certain that you know that the Executive Committee of the AKVMA is in support of that legislation as written. This legislation addresses needed changes that were recognized by the Board of Veterinary Examiners over the previous 5 years. Such changes benefit the people and animals of Alaska.

While before the House of Representatives, an amendment was proposed and later withdrawn that pertained to the reporting of animal abuse and cruelty. I do not know if that amendment will come up again. The Executive Committee of the AKVMA was NOT in support of that amendment. That issue will be appropriately addressed by the Board of Veterinary Examiners during their meeting in May.

I appreciate your efforts and attention to this matter that is so important to the people and animals of the State of Alaska.

Nelson H. Priddy II, DVM  
Diplomate American College of Veterinary Surgeons  
President Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association

4/5/2008

**HEB**

**320**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/5/08

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 3/26/08

Labor and Commerce Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 320(FIN)

## HB 320 SEARCH & RESCUE: CERTIFICATION/WORK.COMP

"An Act relating to search and rescue training and search and rescue parties; requiring certain search and rescue volunteers to be considered state employees for purposes of workers' compensation coverage; and allowing political subdivisions to elect to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage for search and rescue personnel."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Same Title	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Title	
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same Title	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Title Change	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Title w/ SCP # _____	

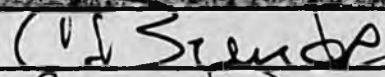

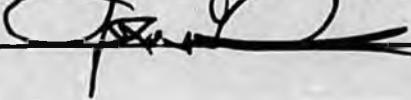
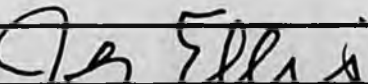
**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indef.	Zero	FN#
TPS	3/18/08	✓			
DOUWD	2/20/08			✓	

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indef.	Zero	FN#
ADMIN	1/25/08		✓		2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	PRINTED NAME	Do Pass	Do Not Pass	NO REC.	REMARKS
	Bundie	✓			
	DAVIS	✓			
	[unclear]	X			
CHAIR: 	ELLIS	✓			



# REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 5, 2008  
**TO:** Representative Kevin Meyer  
**FROM:** Mike Pawlowski  
**RE:** Sectional Analysis for CSHB 320  
(Version No. 25 - LS1176\E)

---

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Adds a new section to AS 18.60 allowing the Commissioner of Public Safety or his designee to organize and conduct a search and rescue training mission.

**Section 2.** Amends AS 18.60.120 to clarify that only the Commissioner of Public Safety or his designee may authorize a person to participate in the search and rescue party.

**Section 3.** Makes a conforming amendment to AS 18.60.125 to include a reference to new AS 18.60.115.

**Section 4.** Makes a conforming amendment to AS 18.60.175 to include a reference to new AS 18.60.115.

**Section 5.** Amends AS 23.30.092 to allow a political subdivision to elect to provide workers compensation benefits to search and rescue personnel.

**Section 6.** Adds a new section to AS 23.30 providing workers compensation coverage to search and rescue volunteers participating in a search and rescue mission under AS 18.60.120 or a training exercise under AS 18.60.115.



# **REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER**

**HOUSE DISTRICT 30**

## **Sponsor Statement for House Bill 320**

**"An Act relating to certification of search and rescue personnel and organizations; requiring certain search and rescue personnel to be considered state employees for purposes of workers' compensation coverage; and allowing municipalities to elect to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage for search and rescue personnel."**

The majesty of the last frontier is a primary reason many Alaskans live here and one of the main reasons more than a million tourists visit Alaska annually. Alaskans are raised with an awareness and appreciation for the great outdoors and the dangers that exist in the wilderness. Alaskans are prepared for accidents and are rarely surprised when accidents do occur. When accidents do happen, it is primarily volunteers that perform the search and rescue missions Alaskans and our visitors rely upon.

House Bill 320 extends workers compensation coverage to volunteers during the course of providing a search and rescue service. HB 320 also allows municipalities to extend the same coverage they provide to search and rescue volunteers that they extend to volunteer firefighters, police officers and ambulance attendants. HB 320 however does not require a municipality to extend workers compensation coverage.

Currently, the volunteer emergency medical technicians that treat the injured are given workers compensation coverage by the State, but the volunteer search and rescue personnel do not have the same coverage. Municipalities are also allowed to provide coverage to their volunteer fire departments, ambulance attendants and police, but not the volunteers that perform search and rescue operations.

Most Alaskans know someone who has had an accident while enjoying the outdoors, and many have lost loved ones to tragedy. When accidents do happen, the volunteers in Alaska's search and rescue community are ready 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to put themselves at risk saving others in the backcountry. In the past six years, the Department of Public Safety and the volunteers in the search and rescue community have safely returned over 2,350 individuals to their friends and families.

HB 320 recognizes the valuable service these volunteers provide and ensures that if they are injured while providing a search and rescue service, they will receive workers compensation.

2/18/2008

<b>State of Alaska</b> Sarah Palin Governor	<b>Alaska Workers' Compensation Division</b> PO Box 115512 Juneau, Alaska 99811-5512		
<b>Department of Labor and Workforce Development</b>	<b>BULLETIN</b>	<b>Number</b> 07-10	<b>Date</b> December 06, 2007
<b>Clark Bishop</b> Commissioner	<b>SUBJECT</b>  <b>REFERENCE</b>	Alaska Average Weekly Wage and Minimum/Maximum Compensation Rates for Calendar Year 2008  AS 23.30.041(k), AS 23.30.175(a) and AS 23.30.175(d)	

The Alaska Average Weekly Wage (AAWW) determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development by December 1, 2007, and applicable for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008, is \$782.68.

The maximum compensation rate under AS 23.30.175(a) is 120% of the AAWW, which is \$939.

The minimum compensation rate under AS 23.30.175(a) is 22% of the maximum compensation rate, which is \$207.

The maximum compensation rate under AS 23.30.041(k) is 105% of the AAWW, which is \$822.

New compensation rate tables for 2008 will be completed in the near future. The new tables are to be used for all injuries occurring between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. The new tables will be available on the Division's website: [www.labor.state.ak.us/wc/rate.htm](http://www.labor.state.ak.us/wc/rate.htm).

## **Membership in AMRG**

### **Goals of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group**

- 1) AMRG is committed to ensuring that all members of AMRG and all persons who are involved in AMRG-operated search and rescue missions or training events return home safely and are not injured during these operations.
- 2) AMRG will be available 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to conduct backcountry search and rescue operations and will take all reasonable steps to safely locate and assist any person who becomes lost, stranded, or injured in the Alaska backcountry and return them home to their family members.
- 3) AMRG will assist in the recovery of the bodies of deceased victims of accidents in the Alaska backcountry if such recovery can be safely done without unduly endangering the lives of our members.
- 4) AMRG will promote backcountry safety awareness through local efforts to educate the public about backcountry hazards and safe backcountry travel techniques.

### **Section 1.                    Membership in the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group**

The categories of AMRG membership shall be:

- 1) Prospective Member
- 2) Operational Member
- 3) Technical Advisor
- 4) Auxiliary Member
- 5) Inactive Member

### **Section 1.1                    Membership Category Descriptions & Requirements**

#### **1. Prospective Member**

A. **Requirements:** To become a Prospective Member, you must:

- 1) be at least 18 years old.
- 2) meet any State of Alaska requirements for SAR volunteers.
- 3) self-certify that you have no medical or physical condition that would prevent participation at the membership level you choose.

B. **Application Process** – In order to be considered for Prospective membership, you must submit to the AMRG Board a completed AMRG Application packet. (Attachment A)  
The AMRG Board will promptly review all pending Applications for membership. A

person will become a Prospective Member only upon approval of a majority vote of the AMRG Board.

**C. Position Description - Prospective members may:**

- 1) attend AMRG meetings and training classes.
- 2) respond to AMRG missions and assist at the Incident Command Post
- 3) be deployed on AMRG missions in non-technical terrain at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

**2. Operational Member**

**A. Position Description:** Operational members are AMRG's core field personnel for SAR missions and may be deployed for up to 72 hours. All Operational Members will be considered field resources for ground search missions and avalanche missions, and may serve as team leaders for trained or untrained searchers. Each Operational Member may also have one or more Advanced Proficiency Certifications noted on the AMRG callout sheet as described in Section 2.

**B. Prerequisite Qualifications – To become an Operational Member, you must:**

- 1) Complete at least 6 consecutive months as a Prospective Member; and
- 2) Complete the AMRG "Basic Training" course<sup>1</sup>
- 3) Participate in at least 6 AMRG field or classroom training events including one of the following:
  - i) an AMRG interagency avalanche field training
  - ii) an AMRG interagency ground search field training.
- 4) Complete all training requirements on the Operational Member Certification Checklist (Attachment B)

**C. Application Process – To apply to become an Operational Member, you must submit to the Board of Directors a completed AMRG Operational Member Certification Checklist (Attachment B) and all necessary attachments. The Board shall promptly consider each application. Advancement of a Prospective Member to Operational Member requires approval by a majority of the Board.**

**D. Time limits - Prospective Members who do not meet all of the requirements to move to Operational Member Status within 16 months of joining AMRG must submit to the Board a written request for an extension of time, not to exceed 12 months. Failure to do so may result in loss of Prospective member status. Approval of a time extension is discretionary for the Board.**

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<sup>1</sup> Previous SAR training and experience can be used to substitute for some modules of the Basic Training Course and waiver of individual modules will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Board or Training Coordinator.

**E. Continued Proficiency:**

- 1) An Operational Member must maintain all skill proficiencies and all required equipment as listed in the Membership Handbook and the Operational Membership Certification Checklist (Attachment B).

**F. Other Attributes of Operational Membership**

- 1) Operational Members must pay annual membership dues as set by the Board of Directors. Failure to do so can result in suspension of membership status.
- 2) Operational Members are eligible to vote in AMRG elections, hold officer and committee chair positions.
- 3) Operational Members are eligible for pro-deals through AMRG and MRA.

**3. Technical Advisor**

A Technical Advisor is a person who has significant experience and skills in a key SAR discipline whose affiliation with AMRG shall be as an advisor, instructor, consultant or provider of specialized technical skills. Technical Advisor status can only be conferred by a majority vote of the Board following a written request to the Board to consider an individual as an AMRG Technical Advisor. Technical Advisors shall be required to pay dues, will be entitled to vote in AMRG elections, and are eligible for pro-deals through AMRG. Status as Technical Advisor shall be reviewed by the Board on an annual basis and can be revoked at the discretion of the Board.

**4. Auxiliary Member**

An Auxiliary Member is a member who wishes to assist AMRG in ways other than field service, such as performing mission callouts, assisting with equipment/cache maintenance, communications, logistics, fundraising, etc. Auxiliary Members will be required to pay dues and can vote in AMRG elections, but they cannot assist in the field aspects of any mission or training. They are eligible for AMRG pro-deals after 12 months of service to AMRG at the Board's discretion. Auxiliary members must provide 10 hours of service to AMRG in a calendar year to remain in active status. Hours of service can be documented in a simple written log a copy of which must be submitted to the AMRG Board by May 1 of each year.

**5. Inactive Member**

An Operational Member, Technical Advisor, or Auxiliary Member who does not meet the minimum required proficiency requirements may be placed by the Board on the Inactive Member list. Members can remain on the inactive list for up to 3 years, and at any time during those three years may petition the Board to regain their former membership status by meeting the basic proficiency requirements. Inactive members will not pay dues and will not be eligible to vote in the annual AMRG elections. Inactive members will not be eligible to participate in AMRG pro-deals. After three years on the Inactive list, membership status will be terminated.

## **Section 1.2. Advanced Proficiency Certifications**

Operational Members may be recognized as having advanced skill proficiencies as described below. The purpose of maintaining these certifications is to provide Command staff with information with which to assign field personnel with maximum safety and efficiency. To achieve certification, the member shall submit to the Board the pertinent Advanced Proficiency Checklist (Attachments C-K). Certifications shall be awarded for a term as described below. Upon expiration, any member wishing to renew certification shall submit the pertinent Advanced Proficiency Renewal Checklist to the Board. Approval of certifications and renewals thereof shall be discretionary for the Board.

### **1. Technical Rescue Certification (TR or TR-L)**

A. Position Description: Operational Members who have achieved a level of training and experience to safely perform rescue and recovery operations in technical terrain (steep ice, rock, snow, and glacier environments). Operational members with technical rescue certification (TR) will be called upon to participate as a team member in the technical aspects of rescue and recovery missions. Operational members who have achieved a level of training and experience to lead teams in rescue and recovery operations in technical terrain will be designated as TR-L. This certification requires a high level of knowledge, skills, and abilities in technical environments, and has a higher number of proficiency requirements due the high-risk/low frequency nature of such missions.

#### **B. Prerequisite Qualifications**

- 1) Minimum of 1 year as an AMRG Operational Member; and
- 2) Experience in alpine mountaineering, including technical rock, snow and ice terrain. (Experience may be demonstrated by a climbing resume or through written recommendations by no fewer than 2 AMRG members with Technical Rescue certification); and
- 3) Submission of a completed Technical Rescue Certification & Renewal Checklist (TR or TR-L option (Attachment C)).

C. Expiration/Renewal – All Technical Terrain Certifications shall expire on January 31 of even numbered years. In order for a Technical Rescue Certification to be renewed, the member must submit to the Board a Technical Rescue Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment C) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

### **2. Medical Certification (M)**

A. Position Description: Operational Members with advanced training in wilderness medical care. Medics will be called upon to perform medical assessments in the field and direct the care, packaging, and transport of injured subjects consistent with their medical certification(s), and standing medical protocols approved and reviewed by the AMRG Medical Director and Board of Directors.

**B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum of 1 year as an AMRG Operational Member, and
- 2) submission of documentation showing current Alaska or National Registry certification as a
  - a) WEMT-B\* or
  - b) EMT I, II or III + WFR or
  - c) M.D./D.O./R.N./P.A + WFR (under an Alaska license) or
  - d) Equivalent certification and licenses as determined by the Board. Expiration or other loss of the required underlying certification shall result in concurrent loss of AMRG Medical Certification.

C. Expiration/Renewal— All Medical Certifications shall run concurrent with the required underlying certification. Photocopies of the current, required certifications must be submitted to the Board to obtain Medical Certification. Operational Members with Medical Certification will be required to submit copies of their current WEMT-B or (EMT I,II, or III + WFR) certification card in January of even years to demonstrate continued certification(s).

**3. Avalanche Certification (A)**

A. Position Description: Operational Members who have a high level of training and experience in avalanche hazard assessment, mitigation, and rescue/recovery. AMRG will rely on avalanche certified operational members to assess current avalanche conditions and whether it is safe to perform rescue and/or recovery of avalanche victims. They will also serve as avalanche site commanders—directing field teams and search efforts on scene. Persons with this certification will have considerable experience as a professional ski patroller, mountain guide, avalanche instructor, or SAR responder with a solid background in avalanche hazard assessment/forecasting, rescue, and control/mitigation measures.

**B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum of 1 year as an AMRG Operational Member, and
- 2) Submission of written documentation showing completion of a Level II (or higher<sup>2</sup>) Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation course (or AAA equivalent 30+ hr course), and
- 3) Minimum 5 years of experience in winter backcountry travel (skiing, snowboarding, climbing, snowmachining,) or as a professional ski patroller, avalanche educator, r. Experience may be shown by resume or the written recommendations of at least 2 AMRG members with Avalanche certification.
- 4) Submission of a completed Avalanche Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment D).

C. Expiration/Renewal – All Avalanche Certifications shall expire on January 31 of odd numbered years. In order for an Avalanche Certification to be renewed, the member must

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<sup>3</sup>(e.g., ) AAA—Level III avalanche course, CAA – Level II Avalanche Modules 1, 2, or 3, AAA Professional Avalanche Worker Seminar (PAWS).

submit to the Board an Avalanche Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment D) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

#### **4. Search Manager Certification (SM)**

**A. Position Description:** Operational members who have sufficient training and experience to fulfill key ICS Command and General roles such as: Incident Commander, Planning Section Chief, or Operations Chief, for AMRG SAR missions, particularly wilderness search missions.

**B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum 1 year as an AMRG Operational Member, and
- 2) Submission of a completed Search Manager Certification Checklist (Attachment F).

**C. Expiration/Renewal** – All Search Manager certifications shall expire on January 1 of every third year, beginning in 2008. In order for a Search Manager Certification to be renewed, the member must submit to the Board a Search Manager Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment E) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

#### **5. Agency Representative (AR)**

**A. Position Description:** An AMRG Operational member who shall serve as initial point of contact by an agency requesting AMRG's services and shall act as initial coordinator of AMRG's response until such time as an Incident Commander has been appointed. Agency Representatives will be required to share the responsibility of carrying the AST notification pagers for periods of time throughout the year. Agency Representatives have the necessary SAR experience and judgment to commit the group to a mission, direct field resources, but can be exempt from the field proficiency requirement of Operational Members due to physical limitations.

**B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum of five (5) years of experience with organized search and rescue, and
- 2) Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a member of AMRG, and
- 3) Current or previous AMRG certification in Search Management, Technical Rescue, or Avalanche.
- 4) Submission to the Board of an Agency Representative Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment F)

**B. Duty time** – An Agency Representative must be willing and able to carry the AST notification pager for 3-4 weeks at a time, and respond 24-7 during that period to AST requests for assistance.

**C. Expiration/Renewal** – All Agency Representative Certifications shall expire on Oct 30 of every third year beginning in 2007 In order for an Agency Representative Certification to be

renewed, the member must submit to the Board an Agency Representative Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment F) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

## **6. Swiftwater Certification (SW)**

A. Position Description: An Operational Member who has the ability to assess whitewater hazards and lead/direct searches and rescues in water environments. They are expected to have a significant background in whitewater rafting or kayaking and some training in swiftwater rescue as noted below.

### **B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum one (1) year as an AMRG Operational Member, and
- 2) Minimum five (5) years experience in whitewater rafting, whitewater kayaking or 2 years of experience as an active member of a Swiftwater Rescue Team, including experience with glacial rivers, rapids to class IV and night swift water rescue operations.
- 3) Successful completion of a nationally certified 5-day advanced swiftwater rescue course with training in river search management, rope systems and night operations.  
(*Note: AMRG does not require three-year renewal for this certification.*)
- 4) Submission to the Board of a Swiftwater Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment G)

C. Expiration/Renewal – All Swiftwater Certifications shall expire on Jan 1 of even-numbered years. In order for an Swiftwater certification to be renewed, the member must submit to the Board a Swiftwater Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment G) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

## **7. Helicopter Certification (H)**

A. Position Description: An Operational Member who has sufficient training and experience to manage helicopter operations, both at a helibase, or remote helispots. A member with Helicopter certification has extensive knowledge of helicopter flight operations, including communications, helicopter systems and aerial observation techniques.

### **B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum one (1) year as an AMRG Operational Member, and
- 2) Successful completion of any Alaska Department of Public Safety helicopter safety and observer training program(s).
- 3) Successful completion of the Dept. of Interior (DOI) Interagency Aviation Training B-3 module, or equivalent.
- 4) Submission to the Board of a Helicopter Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment H)

C. Expiration/Renewal – All Helicopter Certifications shall expire on Jan 1 of even-numbered years. In order for a Helicopter certification to be renewed, the member must submit to the Board a Helicopter Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment H) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

## **8. Transportation Certification (TN)**

A. Position Description: An Operational Member who own and operate snowmachines and ATVs, and have sufficient training and experience to coordinate the transportation efforts associated with AMRG missions. Transportation Specialists will also be called upon to direct the transportation efforts associated with AMRG missions when needed, particularly participation of untrained or spontaneous transportation resources that assist with missions. They will also assist with maintenance of AMRG transportation equipment (Equipment trailer, sleds, etc.).

### **B. Prerequisite Qualifications:**

- 1) Minimum one (1) year as an AMRG Operational Member, and
- 2) Minimum 3 years of experience in backcountry mechanized travel (snowmachining, ATVs, etc). Experience may be shown by resume or the written recommendations of at least 2 AMRG members with Transportation certification.
- 4) Submission of a completed Transportation Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment I).

C. Expiration/Renewal – All Transportation Certifications shall expire on Oct 30 every third year beginning in 2008. In order for a Transportation certification to be renewed, the member must submit to the Board a Transportation Certification & Renewal Checklist (Attachment I) no later than the date of expiration of the prior certification.

## **Section 1.3 Participation of minors within the group**

Participation in training (only) by a member's family (minors more than 16 years old) must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Board. The member must supervise and accept responsibility and liability for the minor during the training exercise.

## **Attachment A**

# **Alaska Mountain Rescue Group Application for Membership - Introduction**

Thank you for your interest in the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group! We are a volunteer organization that performs search and rescue services in backcountry areas of southcentral Alaska. Before submitting this application, please give a moment to consider participation in the Group.

**Time** – Participation in the Group means attending meetings and field training events. We hold two evening meetings and one training day each month from September through June. While no one can attend every meeting and training, there are minimum attendance and training proficiency standards for active members. Also, missions tend to happen around weekends and late at night, 365 days a year. Missions may last hours or days. Think about whether this will work with your family and job before you apply.

**Work** – The Group can use some help with town chores, such as office work. However, the vast majority of our work is done in the backcountry. This could mean anything from a city park to a glacier in the Alaska Range. Our work is often done in the cold, in the rain or snow and in hazardous places. Active members must be able to carry heavy packs and/or a litter in steep, rough terrain and through thick brush for hours at a time. Members must be able to survive AND function efficiently in any Alaskan weather at any time of year. You need not be a climber, but you need to have strong backcountry skills before you join the Group. If you are new to the Alaska backcountry, you might look into membership in the Mountaineering Club of Alaska or other outdoor organizations and/or training to hone your backcountry skills before joining AMRG. If backcountry field work isn't your thing, but you want to help AMRG in other ways, consider joining AMRG as an Auxiliary member which has less stringent participation and physical requirements.

**Expense** – As people become more involved with AMRG, they find that they need a considerable amount of backcountry gear. This is expensive stuff. Since your life may depend on it, members tend to try to obtain the best equipment available. Gear is often lost or used up on missions, some of which may be replaced by the Department of Public Safety. Gas, food and other consumables, as well as wear and tear on personal vehicles are also a cost to the member.

**Still interested?** If we haven't scared you off, fill out the attached application, noting whether you wish to join as an auxiliary member or operational member, and mail it to our mailbox (P.O. Box 241102, Anchorage, AK 99524), or hand it to one of our Board members. The Board will want to look over your application and maybe talk with you before responding. In the meantime, feel free to attend our meetings and get to know folks.

# Alaska Mountain Rescue Group

## Application for Membership

### Membership Type Applying For:

Operational Member

Auxiliary Member

**Date of Application:**

Name:

Address:

Home / Work / cell telephone numbers

e-mail address:

Tell us about your backcountry skills and experience, especially any search and rescue training or experience (you can also attach a letter with this information):

**Medical training – list any first aid, emergency medical training or experience you may have, including any current or expired certifications**

**Medical background – Many of AMRG's missions are hazardous. The following is intended to give us some medical background should you be injured. If you prefer, you may provide this information after the Board has considered your application.**

**Age/Birthdate:**

**Sex:**

**Height/weight:**

**Bloodtype:**

**Emergency contact(s):**

**Regular physician (name and phone):**

**Relevant Medical Conditions / Allergies (If you are on any regular medication or have a condition that an emergency physician should know about before initiating treatment, such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, etc., please describe here. Please list if you are allergic to any medications or if you have a severe allergic reaction to any substance.**

**I certify that I do not have an medical, physical, or mental conditions that would prevent me from assisting AMRG in the membership capacity I am seeking:**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*(PLEASE ALSO FILL OUT AMRG MEDICAL INFO CARD AND SUBMIT\*\***

**Please read carefully and sign the Release and Assumption of Risk and Ethics forms below, then submit your membership application to any Board member, or mail it to Membership Coordinator, AMRG, P.O. Box 241102, Anchorage, AK 99524, e-mail: [wromberg@acsalaska.net](mailto:wromberg@acsalaska.net)**

## **AMRG Release and Assumption of Risk**

I am aware that there are certain risks involved in participating on a mountain rescue team. I am aware that these risks can include, but are not limited to, bodily or mental injury, disability or even death. I am aware that hazards include, but are not limited to, travel in remote and/or mountainous terrain, exposure to weather, system or equipment failures, human error, rock, snow and ice fall, including avalanches, and travel by air, automobile, snow machine or other conveyance. I am aware that I may be exposed to these risks both in training and on actual missions.

After considering these risks, I desire to receive training and to participate in missions with the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group. I ASSUME ALL RISK AND AGREE TO HOLD THE ALASKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP AND ANY OF ITS MEMBERS HARMLESS FROM ANY LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION, DEBTS, CLAIMS OR DEMANDS OF ANY KIND WHICH MAY ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH MY PARTICIPATION IN ANY TRAINING ACTIVITY OR MISSION. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, guardians, or any member of my family. The effect of this release and assumption of risk shall continue despite the cessation, if any, of my participation with the Group.

I understand that the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group is a non-profit organization operated solely by volunteers. I am aware that it has no liability, medical, workers compensation or similar insurance.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS AND IMPACT. I AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (print name)

## **AMRG Principles of Ethical Conduct**

Membership in AMRG entails a commitment to provide assistance to those in need, and as such, engenders a public trust that requires the highest level of personal and professional conduct. The ability of AMRG to serve those in need depends on being recognized as a professional volunteer organization with the highest level of skills and standards. It is the duty of each member to reflect the values of the Group. To the extent possible, the following are the principles of conduct that every member shall adhere to.

1. Every member shall consider the welfare of themselves and the welfare of their fellow team members, their primary concern, and shall not place another person in a position of known jeopardy.
2. The welfare of a living subject of a search and/or rescue shall be considered the next highest priority after the safety of the team.
3. Each member shall strive to preserve the dignity and privacy of living or deceased subjects that are the focus of AMRG missions.
4. AMRG and individual members shall not solicit contributions of money, goods, or services in connection with any mission, nor shall any member solicit or accept fees or remuneration for personal benefit, without approval of the Board.
5. No member may use their association with AMRG for political, financial, or business purposes without Board approval.
6. Each member is obligated by membership in AMRG to maintain the standards of their membership level, and to improve upon their ability and capacity to serve.
7. As an individual, a member shall not act on behalf of AMRG, or presume to represent AMRG, in instances of an emergency nature, or in matters of public relations, without Board approval.
8. AMRG shall not be utilized as an adjunct resource for matters relating to the pursuit of fugitives from justice, or other law enforcement missions unless a clear humanitarian issue has been identified, and only upon the concurrence of the Board.
9. Ethical conduct by members requires that their actions and words reflect a policy of nondiscrimination. AMRG and its members will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, social or economic circumstance, or national origin.
10. AMRG conducts itself within the public trust, and will not tolerate or retain any member that has been identified as drug and/or alcohol dependent.

**I HAVE READ THESE PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT, AND I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE PRINCIPLES.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)



## **Alaska Mountain Rescue Group Medical Profile Information Sheet**

**Please fill out this information to the best of your ability. The medical information form you provide will be housed in the AMRG ICS kit kept in the AMRG trailer for ready access during field training and missions. Should you develop a serious medical condition (i.e., heart attack) or sustain traumatic injuries during a mission or training, this information will be made available to ER personnel upon your arrival should you be unconscious or have an altered mental status. It is the intent of the Board that this information be kept as confidential as possible—only being available to the Board and Drs. Ellemberger, Zafren, and Mike Moxness, R.N.**

**Please list all medical problems and past surgeries. On your medical form only those conditions that are significant enough to require a physicians attention in an emergency will be written on your card.**

**For allergies, please include reaction to drug (i.e., rash, anaphylaxis)**

**Your insurance company name and social security are put on the form to allow for smoother hospital registration. If you are against listing your SSN, then you can omit it. These sheets will be kept in an AMRG binder, if they are ever discarded, they will be shredded.**

**You can put more then one phone number for the Emergency Contact listing (i.e., cell and home number)**

**For medicines, please write down name, dosage and how often. For men, while a private matter, I ask that if you take a medication for erectile dysfunction, like Viagra, that you list that please. Nitrate medications like nitroglycerin are contraindicated if you take these medicines and can cause complications/death by dropping your blood pressure if given. For women please list any birth control pills, Depo shots, etc. Also please list herbal supplements you may take. There are some that can cause “blood thinning”.**

**If this profile changes in any way, please let Dr. Herman Ellemberger know by submitting a new medical information form showing the updated information. These cards are being made to ensure the best possible care for our AMRG members. Thank you!**

**PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE AS LEGIBLY AS POSSIBLE**

**Name:**

**Date of Birth:**

**Social Security No:**

**Medical Problems:**

**Past Surgeries:**

**Medicines: (please include daily baby aspirin if taken)**

**Allergies to Medicines (including iodine or shellfish):**

**Blood Type (please include + or - if known):**

**Do you smoke ?**

**Emergency Contact Name:**

**Emergency Contact Phone Number(s):**

**Emergency Contact Relation to You:**

**Insurance Company:**

**Extra space for additional listing of important medical conditions:**

## Attachment B -- Operational Member Certification & Renewal Checklist Alaska Mountain Rescue Group

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date became a Prospective Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**First certification of Operational Member status:**

	<i>date</i>	<i>instructor</i>
Completed AMRG Basic Training class	_____	_____
AMRG cache orientation*	_____	_____
Radio communications*	_____	_____
Personal equipment*	_____	_____
Helicopter orientation*	_____	_____
Six AMRG training events*	1 _____	_____
	2 _____	_____
	3 _____	_____
	4 _____	_____
	5 _____	_____
	6 _____	_____

Current Wilderness First Aid (or higher) certification (attach copy)\*

Current Basic CPR certification (attach copy)

NIMS IS-100 course certificate (attach copy)\*

NASAR SAR TECH III (or higher) exam passed (attach copy)\*

Date submitted to AMRG board: \_\_\_\_\_

**Within 18 months of attaining Operational Member status:**

NIMS IS-200 certificate (attach copy)\*

NIMS IS-700 certificate (attach copy)\*

NASAR SAR Tech II certification (attach copy)\*

Level 1 Avalanche course certificate (attach copy)\*

Date submitted to AMRG board: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual proficiency checklist:**

Participated in minimum of five scheduled AMRG training events  
(including at least two field training events)

Lead or assisted with at least one AMRG training event

Passed avalanche transceiver test\*

Date submitted to AMRG board: \_\_\_\_\_

\* See descriptions, next page.

## **Descriptions for Attachment B:**

### **First certification:**

**AMRG Cache Orientation - Demonstrates familiarity with layout and inventory of AMRG Cache, trailer, and checkout procedures**

**Radio Communications - Demonstrates ability to operate AMRG portable radios, assemble and operate Base stations; assemble and operate repeater stations.**

**Personal Equipment - Confirms all mandatory equipment of Operational Member Equipment List, including appropriate pack.**

**Training - Confirms participation in at least six AMRG training events including at least one of the following:**

**AMRG interagency avalanche field training  
AMRG interagency ground search field training.**

**Helicopter Orientation - Attend helicopter (AST Helo 1) orientation session**

**Current Wilderness First Aid - Attach copy of current Wilderness First Aid (or higher) certification with Basic CPR. (Note: persons who have completed a WFR or WFA course within the last 10 yrs but who may not have current certification can provide copy of most recent certification card)**

**NIMS IS-100 is a free online self-study course.**

**NASAR SAR Tech Certification – Attach documentation of completion of NASAR SAR Tech III (or II, or I) course (Note: SAR Tech III certification available online as a self-study course—course completion certificate from NASAR sufficient).**

### **Within 18 months:**

**NIMS IS-200 is a free online self-study course.**

**NIMS IS-700 is a free online self-study course.**

**Level 1 Avalanche is a 24-hour nationally certified course.**

**NASAR SAR Tech II is a 43-hour nationally certified course. The course may be challenged by taking 1 written test and 6 field tests.**

### **Annual proficiency checklist:**

**Passed avalanche transceiver test - Demonstrated the ability to locate at least two avalanche transceivers buried in a 30m x 30m area within six minutes.**

# Attachment C -- Technical Rescue Certification & Renewal Checklist

## Alaska Mountain Rescue Group

### Experience

- Minimum of 1 year as an AMRG Operational Member
- Experience in alpine mountaineering, including technical rock, snow and ice terrain as demonstrated by:
  - a climbing resume (attach copy), OR
  - written recommendation by no fewer than 2 AMRG members with Technical Rescue certification (attach copy)

### Date & Initials of Trainer

### Training

- Completion of AMRG Technical Training Program (attach copy):
  - Technical Training Program attendance sheet
  - Technical Rescue Proficiency Checklist (below)
- Participation in two (2) AMRG Rope Rodeo field trainings

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Advancement to Technical Rescue Leader (TR-L)

- Completion of a formal, multi-day rescue rigging course (e.g. Rigging for Rescue 7-day seminar). containing at least 25 hrs of field training (attach copy), OR
- Technical rescue leader certification with another mountain rescue unit, the military, or mountain guide operation verified in writing by the unit (attach copy)

### Biennial Proficiency Checklist (submit by Jan 31 of even years)

- Continued active involvement in technical climbing (rock, snow, and ice) as well as glacier travel/mountaineering (as verified by other AMRG Technical Rescue members or review by the Board).
- Demonstrated proficiency in current AMRG technical standards by completing two or more of the following requirements during the renewal period:
  - Participation in a minimum of five (5) scheduled AMRG technical field training events
  - Successful demonstration of skills at all stations of annual AMRG Rope Rodeo.
  - Serve as an instructor/co-instructor for at least three (3) AMRG technical training events in the renewal period

# Alaska Mountain Rescue Group

## Technical Climbing Proficiency Checklist

(To be completed through a combination of review of climbing resume and demonstration at AMRG training events while completing Technical Rescue Training Program.)

Date & Initials of Trainer

### Rock

- free climb 5.7 or better
- safely place protection-
  - Bolts, pitons, chocks, cams
- rig protection, belays
- belay leader/follower

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### Snow / Ice

- Climb steep snow / ice (Grade III)
- Safely place anchors –
  - Ice screws, pickets, bollards
- Self arrest on snow

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### Glacier

- Glacier travel
- Crevasse extrication, patient and
- Rope partner

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### Technical Rescue

- AMRG knots
- Rig harness / pickoff
- Anchor systems
- Belay / rappelling
- Raising systems
- Lowering systems
- Litter handling / tending

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