



# AK PT/OT Board - Legislative Committee Mtg April 25, 2024 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Apr 25, 2024 at 9:00 AM AKDT  
Juneau - Zoom

## Minutes

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members:  
Tina McLean  
Enlow Walker

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled committee meeting of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board was called to order at 9:02 am AKDT on Thursday, April 25, 2024 and Roll Call was done by Tina McLean. Present: Tina McLean and Enlow Walker, committee members.

Staff present: Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner.

Guest: Jim Kimball, Fairbanks – public

### 2. Review/Approve Agenda

Agenda for 04-25-2024 PHY Legislative Committee meeting approved as submitted.

### 3. Approve Minutes 4-11-2024

Motion made by Enlow Walker to approve the minutes from the 04-11-2024 Legislative Committee meeting as written. All in favor; none opposed. Minutes from 04-11-2024 approved as written.

### 4. Public Comment

Jim Kimball, Fairbanks - member of public connected. No public comment given.

### 5. Action Items

- Bill Monitoring:
  - [HB137\\*](#) / [SB74\\*](#) - PT Compact
  - [HB85\\*](#) - Temp Permits
  - [SB83\\*](#) - Temp Permits

- [HB314](#)\* - Occupational Licensing Fees
- [SB225](#)\* - Occupational Licensing Fees
- [HB336](#)\*\* - Athletic Trainers Scope of Practice
- Bill Discussion:
  - [SB91](#) - TELEHEALTH: MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE TEAM
  - [HB187](#)\* - PRIOR AUTH EXEMPT FOR HEALTH PROVIDERS
  - [HB115](#) - NATUROPATHS: LICENSING; PRACTICE

\*PHY Board Letter of Support on record

\*\*PHY Board Letter of Opposition on record

No movement since last meeting on HB137/SB74; HB85/SB83; HB314/SB225. Continue to monitor.

HB336 - Athletic Trainers Scope of Practice referred to House Labor + Commerce 4/17/2024. Bill sponsor promised to work on language changes with state association. PHY Letter of Opposition on file. No other letters of support or opposition filed by state association or other boards as of this date. Continue to monitor bill advancement.

SB91 - Telehealth: MultiDisciplinary Care Team - Deputy Director provided requested information. "not reasonably available in the state" is not defined. Concern while intent/use may be narrow via telehealth, bill language does open door for readily available ongoing care for by out-of-state licensed therapists who are members of a physician's team for telehealth without an AK license in non-emergent situations. Concern this bill would bypass PT/OT compact bill (telehealth situation only). Concern with who/how disciplinary actions will be handled for non-AK licensed therapists who provide care for AK patients. Need clarification of how complaints will be handled/adjudicated in 08.02.140. Who is the "department"? Who interprets scope? Does the PHY board budget get charged for any related investigations?

HB115 - Naturopaths; Licensing; Practice - Support naturopaths implementing their own board; concerned that scope is too broad. Enlow Walker to draft letter with concerns for board review/vote.

## 6. Next Steps

- HB137/SB74; HB85/SB83; HB314/SB225 - Letters of Support on file. Continue to monitor.
- HB336 Athletic Trainers Scope of Practice - Letter of Opposition on file. Continue to monitor.
- SB91 - Request clarification from deputy director on Sec. 4 – Sec. 08.02.140 Disciplinary Sanctions for an out-of-state multidisciplinary care team member
  - Identify "department" - board for multidisciplinary team profession type or department administration?

- Who interprets scope? board for multidisciplinary team profession type or department?
- Who adjudicates sanction? board for multidisciplinary team profession type or department?
- Where do costs of investigations get attributed to - budget for each board of multidisciplinary team profession type or department budget?
- HB187 - Prior Auth Exempt for Health Providers - Letter of Support on file. No testimony necessary . Continue to monitor.
- HB115 - Naturopaths; Licensing: Practice - Enlow Walker to draft letter with concerns by end of business 04/26/2024 for Board to review/vote.

## **7. Adjourn**

The State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Legislative Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:43 am AKDT on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Next meeting for PHY Legislative Committee Thursday, May 9, 2024.

**Approved 05/09/2024 by unanimous vote.**