



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2550
Fax: 907.465.2974

July 7, 2015

Dear licensees and interested parties:

Alaska's professional licensing statutes (AS 08.01.065) require the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) to "annually review each fee level to determine whether the regulatory costs of each occupation are approximately equal to fee collections related to that occupation." Alaska's licensing fee statutes go on to say, "If the review indicates that an occupation's fee collections and regulatory costs are not approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee adjustments and adopt regulations...to implement the adjustments."

In 2012, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development performed a thorough review of each licensing program's revenues and expenses as previously reported over the prior ten years. This data was reconciled to the State's accounting system, and all boards and commissions were provided copies of this reconciliation. The fiscal condition of the Board of Professional Counselors was determined to be far poorer than the board was aware. Since 2012, the board and the division, in partnership, have made efforts to ensure the program pulls out of its deficit and covers its operating expenses for the coming biennial license period.

The Board of Professional Counselors reviewed the fee analysis at its June 2015 meeting and made recommendations to increase fees and implement new fees. The Division took under advisement those recommendations; a breakdown of the proposed fees is enclosed and located on the Board's web page at <http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/ProfessionalCounselors.aspx>. It is the desire of both the Board and the Division that the program is out of deficit before the 2018 Sunset Audit administered by Legislative Audit.

This fee proposal is entering a public comment period. The division encourages all licensees and interested parties to comment on this proposal through the division's Regulations Specialist, whose contact information is enclosed on the public notice. After the comment period closes and the division reviews all comments received, the division may adopt the regulation as drafted, may amend a proposed fee, or may withdraw the regulations in part or in its whole.

All comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration prior to adopting the final regulations. The final decision will result in the fee to be implemented during this fall's license renewal.

Follow the instructions enclosed to make written comments during the public comment period. Comments must be addressed to Jun Maiquis, Regulations Specialist, PO Box 110806, Juneau, AK 99811 or jun.maiquis@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janey Hovenden".

Janey Hovenden
Director

Encl.

Chapter 02. General Occupational Licensing Functions.

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted.)

12 AAC 02.325 is amended to read:

12 AAC 02.325. Board of Professional Counselors. The following fees are established for professional counselors:

- (1) application fee for any initial license, **\$200** [\$125];
- (2) license fee for all or part of any initial biennial license period, **\$650** [\$400];
- (3) any biennial license renewal fee, **\$650** [\$400];
- (4) any board-approved supervisor fee, **\$200** [\$125];
- (5) continuing education course approval fee, \$100;**
- (6) continuing education course reapproval fee, \$100.** (Eff. 5/5/99,

Register 150; am 8/12/2001, Register 159; am 6/13/2002, Register 162; am 8/8/2003, Register 167; am 7/9/2005, Register 175; am 9/17/2011, Register 199; am 9/7/2013, Register 207; am ___/___/___, Register ____)

Authority: AS 08.01.065