



Notice of adoption of emergency regulation on physician licensure process for licensure by credentials and temporary permit requirements in the regulations of the Alaska State Medical Board

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

July 2022

1. What is the purpose of the emergency regulations? What will this regulation do?

12 AAC 40.010 Application for license by credentials and 12 AAC 40.035 Temporary permit application requirements

The State Medical Board finds that an emergency exists under AS 44.62.250 requiring an immediate change to the physician licensure process for licensure by credentials and temporary permit requirements, and that an emergency regulation change is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Medical Board is experiencing both a significantly reduced staff and sustained high volume of applicants, resulting in extensive and untenable delays in physician licensure. Staff are working overtime in the evenings and through the weekends, however, licensing at best is taking eight weeks, but more often several months. This is causing hospitals and other healthcare facilities to be short staffed and in dire need of physicians who are ready to work, but not able to because their applications for licensure have not been processed and approved. The resulting physician shortage threatens the public health, safety, and general welfare. The proposed regulation changes will allow a significant number of physicians to receive an expedited temporary license upon initial review of their application and a six-month window to continue working with the State Medical Board to submit remaining documentation for permanent licensure.

- The regulation changes eliminate certain requirements needed to issue an expedited temporary license. The changes also eliminate redundant, outdated requirements necessary for full licensure. The aim of both changes is to streamline and expedite the process for issuing licenses.
- Qualified physicians will be able to be licensed and get to work faster. This will help reduce staffing shortages in hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

2. What are the costs to comply with the emergency regulations?

The required current application and licensing fees.

3. When will the emergency regulations be effective?

The emergency regulation took effect on July 7, 2022 and will expire November 3, 2022 unless made permanent by the Board. The Board intends to make the emergency regulation permanent.

4. When will the emergency regulations be permanent?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the emergency regulation to be made permanent as proposed/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action and expire after the 120th day, or may withdraw the emergency regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted permanent regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for permanent filing.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.