



AO 360 Regulatory Reform Plan

Overview - April 2026

Introduction

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development proposes to update regulations to modernize licensing processes, clarify obligations, streamline procedures, reduce redundancy, eliminate unnecessary rules, and improve transparency.

Through this plan, DCCED will reduce discretionary regulations by 24% in 2026 and 34% overall by December 2027. Guidance documents of agencies using them to meet AO 360 targets will be reduced by 56% by the end of 2027.

This plan comprises the intentions of 27 separate regulatory adoption authorities:

- Alaska Energy Authority
- Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office, inclusive of regulations governed by two boards:
 - Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 - Marijuana Control Board
- Division of Banking and Securities
- Division of Community and Regional Affairs
- Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, inclusive of regulations governed by our 21 professional licensing regulatory boards
 - Big Game Commercial Services Board
 - Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
 - Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
 - Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
 - Board of Chiropractic Examiners
 - Board of Dental Examiners
 - Board of Examiners in Optometry
 - Board of Marine Pilots
 - Board of Marital and Family Therapy
 - Board of Massage Therapy
 - Board of Nursing
 - Board of Pharmacy
 - Board of Professional Counselors
 - Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
 - Board of Public Accountancy
 - Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors
 - Board of Social Work Examiners
 - Board of Veterinary Examiners
 - Real Estate Commission
 - State Medical Board
 - State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
- Division of Insurance
- Division of Investments

Also part of the department are the following independent corporate agencies, which are proposing regulatory reform under AO 360 through an update to the DCCED Regulatory Reform Plan in May 2026:

- Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

- Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- Regulatory Commission of Alaska

The following DCCED agencies are exempt from AO 360 due to having no regulations or guidance documents:

- Alaska Broadband Office
- Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
- Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

The department has identified its highest-priority regulations projects; we plan to submit these to the Department of Law first. Adoption of most of these projects is overdue to conform with effective or soon-to-be-effective legislation.

- Project Priority Number CBPL – 1: Professional Counselor Fees*
- Project Priority Number CBPL -1: Professional Licensing Fees*
- Project Priority Number DBS – 1: Securities*
- Project Priority Number INS – 1: Prior Authorization
- Project Priority Number MCB – 1: Potency Limits
- Project Priority Number OPT – 1: Optometry Delegation*
- Project Priority Number PCO – 1: Associate Counselor License*
- Project Priority Number RCA – 1: Public Notice Requirements
- Project Priority Number RCA – 1: Independent Power Producers

Projects with an asterisk () are already open projects with Department of Law and remain a high priority for adoption. Projects without an asterisk were not approved for a waiver under AO 358 and were requested by the Department of Law to be included for prioritization in the department’s Regulatory Reform Plan. These are requested to be expedited once submitted due to statutory deadlines and public safety concerns.*

Following prioritization of these projects with department-wide significance, the 27 regulatory adoption authorities in this plan have all listed their unique project priority numbers, which will be submitted to the Department of Law through their own regulations managers.

Special Considerations

Several divisions have provided narratives regarding their regulatory reductions, including their rationale for how they plan to meet the required reduction targets through elimination of relevant guidance documents.

Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board regulatory reductions were reached after a thorough review of current regulations and stakeholder input by the board and AMCO staff. The board considered the goals of AO 360 in this review and felt that a further reduction of requirements below the threshold presented in this plan may reduce the abilities of the board and AMCO to effectively regulate and enforce the alcohol industry.

In 2022, Senate Bill 9 was signed into law, rewriting much of Title 4. For over a year, the board conducted meetings with AMCO staff, members of the alcohol industry, the public including members of public health and public safety, and the Department of Law. This resulted in the complete repeal of 3 AAC 304 and the adoption of new, more concise and effective regulations signed into law by the Lieutenant Governor effective January 1, 2024. The board requests that these efforts be considered when evaluating the completeness of this regulatory reform plan.

Following a comprehensive review of 3 AAC 306, the Marijuana Control Board and AMCO evaluated each regulatory requirement to identify opportunities for responsible reduction, consolidation, or modernization. This work included staff analysis, stakeholder feedback, statutory obligations, and historical enforcement considerations. While the board pursued reductions wherever feasible, further decreases beyond the planned 24% would present significant risks to the agency’s regulatory integrity and enforcement capacity. The marijuana industry continues to operate within a uniquely

complex legal environment, including recent and ongoing federal developments that require Alaska to maintain clear, enforceable regulations. Additionally, challenges arising from the 2018 Farm Bill, particularly the emergence of intoxicating hemp products, have necessitated the strengthening and clarification of certain provisions to close loopholes and preserve public safety. These evolving factors limit the degree to which regulations can be responsibly reduced. Accordingly, the agency believes the proposed 24% reduction strikes an appropriate balance between meeting the intent of AO 360 and maintaining a regulatory framework capable of protecting Alaskans and supporting a stable, well-regulated industry.

Division of Banking and Securities

The division's efforts to reduce regulatory burden on our licensees and financial institutions include a plan to reduce the number of discretionary regulations by 23% and a 24% reduction of guidance documents when considering full credit for deleting each page.

Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

The division administers programs for 21 professional licensing boards, as well as its own professional licensing programs, the corporation program, the business licensing program, and the centralized regulations for professional licensing. Boards wholly made the decisions on the regulations they plan to repeal or amend, as proposed in the plan, since the boards are the only entities with authority to amend their respective regulations. Programs that are division-regulated can be easily identified in plan as those with "CBPL" referenced in the priority column.

Division of Insurance

The division is proposing to meet and exceed the AO 360 reduction targets through a massive reduction of guidance documents, with a reduction of 63% in 2026, and additional 2% in 2027, for a total reduction of 65% of guidance documents. Through careful review of guidance documents, including bulletins, forms, and webpage content, the division has identified that a substantial volume of guidance documents were outdated, duplicative, or redundant. The majority are bulletins slated for repeal, which are scheduled for action in 2026. A smaller number of bulletins will be subject to further content review, after which some will be repealed and reissued with modernized language, some will be repealed with appropriate content moved to webpages, and some are expected to simply be repealed. Other guidance documents, such as webpage content and forms, will be modernized and reduced, or removed.

The division also carefully reviewed each regulation to identify discretionary requirements that did not serve its mission. The division identified 208 discretionary requirements (6%) as obsolete, redundant or outdated, and which are included in this Regulatory Reform Plan for reduction through repeal or amendment. However, three regulation projects required to implement 2024-2025 legislation will add new discretionary requirements. The net effect is that the division's Regulatory Reform Plan will not reduce requirements from the baseline in 2026 or 2027. Hence, the division's pivot to include guidance document reform in our AO 360 implementation plan. This plan will still result in a lower regulatory burden and less confusing regulatory environment for insurers and consumers as they navigate the insurance marketplace. The division's determination that only a limited number of discretionary requirements should be removed is based upon the recognition of the role insurance plays in Alaska's economy and community, the need to preserve consumer protections, and to provide the global and national insurance industry with a stable framework to do business in Alaska.

Additionally, model laws and regulations related to insurer financial solvency are required to be adopted by a state to receive and maintain NAIC accreditation, which allows states to rely on the financial analysis and examination work that states perform on their domestic insurers. These model laws and regulations facilitate the operations of insurers who wish to offer products in many states without having to fully redesign each product for each state, increasing portability and reducing barriers to licensure.