



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
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Notice of Proposed Changes in the Regulations of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

September 2026

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will these regulations do?

12 AAC 02.190. Board of Dental Examiners The proposed changes will increase the following fees for **dental hygienists**: application fee for initial licensure, and the biennial license renewal fee; and will increase the following fees for **dentists**: application for initial licensure, initial license fee, and the biennial license renewal fee.

12 AAC 02.195. Dietitians and Nutritionists The proposed changes will increase the following fees for **dietitians** and **nutritionists**: application fee for initial licensure, the initial license fee, and the renewal fee.

12 AAC 02.245. Mechanical Administrators The proposed changes will increase the following fees for **mechanical administrators**: the application fees, the initial license fee, and the renewal fees; The following fees **will be added**: initial continuing education course submittals, and renewals of continuing education course submittals.

12 AAC 02.270. Naturopaths The proposed changes will decrease the following fees for **naturopaths**: initial license, renewals, and temporary licenses.

12 AAC 02.330. Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners The proposed changes will clarify that application fees are nonrefundable, will increase the following fees for **psychologists**: application fee for initial licensure, courtesy psychologist license fee, initial license fee, renewal fee; increase the **temporary license fee**; will increase the following fees for **psychological associates**: initial license fee, and renewal fee; and will decrease the following fees to \$0 as these are no longer collected by the division: the credential review fee, and the state examination fee.

12 AAC 02.380. Pawnbrokers The proposed changes will increase the following fees for **pawnbrokers**: the initial license fee, and the renewal fee.

12 AAC 02.396. Board of Massage Therapists The proposed changes will increase the following fees for **massage therapists**: initial license fee, and the renewal fee; and will increase the following fees for **massage therapy establishments**: registration fee, and the renewal fee.

- ***Question received:** Please provide a comprehensive breakdown detailing the precise justifications underpinning the increase to the fees for the Board of Massage Therapists.*

***Answer provided:** We deeply value the critical role massage therapists play in supporting the health and well-being of Alaskans and recognize the significant economic pressures massage therapists and the establishments already face.*

Alaska's professional licensing statutes (AS 08.01.065) require the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) to set fees that approximately equal the cost of regulating each profession. The Division conducts these reviews on staggered two-year cycles, and adjustments are mandatory when fee collections and regulatory costs are not aligned. In compliance with this statute, the Division has completed a thorough fee analysis for the Board of Massage Therapists program and has determined that an increase is necessary.

At the end of the third quarter in fiscal year 2026, the Board of Massage Therapists program was operating with a deficit of \$174,694. The program first entered deficit in FY2021 when expenditures exceeded licensing revenue. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the governor's public health disaster emergency declaration (Chapter 10 SLA 2020 (SB 241)), the Division did not increase fees during that period. The legislature provided a one-time general fund appropriation in FY2021 to offset the deficit, which sustained the program through FY2022. However, without additional appropriations in subsequent years, the program again returned to deficit in FY2023.

A fee increase is necessary at this time to ensure the program can continue to meet its regulatory obligations. These costs include personnel expenses, investigative services, regulatory review by the Department of Law, and other recurring operational needs such as core services. Aligning fees with actual regulatory costs is required both to maintain program stability and to comply with state statute.

We understand that the scale of the proposed increase raises serious questions for practitioners, and your request for a clear explanation of the specific justifications, cost drivers, and anticipated benefits is both reasonable and essential. The 3rd quarter FY2026 schedule of revenues and expenditures for the Board of Massage Therapists can be found [here](#). The increased costs are not tied to a single cost; instead, they stem from gradual year-over-year increases.

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

For dental hygienists - \$220 initial license application fee and \$220 for renewal; For dentists - \$800 initial license application fee, \$500 license fee, and \$500 for renewal; For dietitians/nutritionists - \$150 initial license application fee, \$85 license fee, and \$85 for renewal; For mechanical administrators - \$350 application fee, \$500 initial license fee, and \$500 for renewal, \$25 for initial continuing education course submittal and \$25 for renewal of continuing education course submittal; For naturopaths - \$800 license fee, \$800 renewal fee, and \$400 for a temporary license; For psychologists - \$400 for initial license application fee, \$200 application fee for courtesy license, \$1,100 license fee, \$1,100 for renewal, \$250 for temporary license fee;

For psychological associates - \$1,100 license fee, \$1,100 for renewal; For pawnbrokers - \$600 license fee, \$600 for renewal; For massage therapists - \$465 license fee, \$465 for renewal; For massage therapy establishments - \$600 registration fee, \$600 for registration renewal.

3. How are the estimated costs determined?

AS 08.01.065 requires *all costs* of regulating the profession to be borne by its licensees. The proposed fees are based on known and anticipated costs.

4. What do licensing fees pay for?

Professional license fees fund all activities required to administer and regulate a profession, including processing applications and renewals, maintaining records and systems, conducting investigations, audits, supporting enforcement and disciplinary actions, and covering board operations such as meetings, travel, legal assistance, and regulatory development. Because licensing programs must be financially self-sustaining, these fees ensure the full cost of oversight, regulation, and program stability is paid by the licensees themselves.

5. What are the positive and negative consequences of the regulations?

These regulation changes will create more transparency and clarity for licensees and applicants. These changes will also ensure current and updated information is reflected in the division's centralized regulations, and that outdated fees are removed.

There are fee increases for multiple boards. These increases are required per AS 08.01.065 to ensure all costs of regulating the profession are borne by its licensees.

5. When will the regulations and new fees be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Department for consideration. The Department may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in whole. After Department action, the adopted regulations go 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 filing. Regulations take effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

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