

ALASKA STATE SENATE



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Senator Ralph Seekins
District D

Senate Bill 42 Sponsor Statement

“An Act extending the reporting date for and the termination date of the Task Force on Naturopathic Scope of Practice.”

During the 23rd Legislative session SB 306 established a task force to examine various elements and aspects relating to naturopathic physicians’ scope of practice. By statute the task force was charged with addressing:

1. comparable educational and training levels of naturopaths and medical doctors;
2. the use of legend or prescription drugs by naturopaths with respect to scope of practice;
3. non-pharmacological treatments by naturopaths including minor surgery;
4. collaborative protocols and agreements between naturopaths and medical doctors;
5. joint liability issues between collaborating practitioners; and,
6. other issues of relevance.

SB 306 established that the task force would consist of nine voting members. These are as follows:

1. Alex Malter, MD representing the Alaska State Medical Association;
2. Richard Holm, RPh representing the Alaska Pharmacist Association;
3. Robert Breffeilh, MD representing the Alaska State Medical Board;
4. Cathy Giessel, MSN FNP-CS representing Nurse Practitioners;
5. Jason Harmon, ND representing licensed Naturopaths;
6. Scott Luper, ND representing licensed Naturopaths;
7. Rick Urion, Director of the Division of Occupational Licensing;
8. Lesil McGuire, Alaska State Representative for District 28; and,
9. Ralph Seekins, Alaska State Senator for District D.

The task force was unable to complete its business within the time parameters specified in SB 306. Consequently, SB 42 extends the task force’s charge into 2005. In fact, SB 42 is identical to the previous bill except for the report and termination dates which have been changed to December 1, 2005 and February 1, 2006, respectively.