

HOUSE BILL NO. 70

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE

Introduced: 1/27/25

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to emergency medical services for operational canines; relating to the
2 powers, duties, and liability of emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care
3 paramedics; relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; and providing for an
4 effective date."

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 * **Section 1.** AS 08.98.125 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 08.98.125. Exemptions.** This chapter does not apply to the following:

8 (1) a veterinary medical officer in the military service in the discharge
9 of official duties or as an employee in the federal or state government performing
10 veterinary medical services within the scope of the person's official duties;

11 (2) a veterinarian who is licensed in another state or country, or a
12 person whose expertise a veterinarian licensed in this state believes would benefit an
13 animal, and who provides only consultation to a veterinarian licensed in this state; in
14 this paragraph, "consultation" means advice or assistance provided in person,

1 telephonically, electronically, or by any other method of communication from a
 2 veterinarian or other person whose expertise, in the opinion of the veterinarian, would
 3 benefit the animal; [AND]

4 (3) a veterinarian licensed and residing in another state who provides
 5 assistance, as requested by and under the supervision of a veterinarian licensed in this
 6 state, for the purpose of providing skills not otherwise available in this state in
 7 conducting research or other practice of veterinary medicine on captive or free-ranging
 8 wildlife; however, that assistance is limited to not more than three events in a calendar
 9 year for not more than a total of 60 days in the year and may not be on a regular or
 10 recurring basis, as defined by the board; and

11 (4) an emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care
 12 paramedic providing emergency medical services to an operational canine as
 13 provided under AS 18.08.093.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18.08.075(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) An emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who
 16 responds to an emergency with an ambulance service or first responder service, who
 17 has in the technician's or mobile intensive care paramedic's possession a current
 18 emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic identification card,
 19 and who provides emergency medical care or other emergency medical service, has
 20 the authority to

21 (1) control and direct activities at the accident site or emergency until
 22 the arrival of law enforcement personnel;

23 (2) order a person other than the owner to leave a building or place in
 24 the vicinity of the accident or other emergency for the purpose of protecting the person
 25 from injury;

26 (3) temporarily block a public highway, street, or private right-of-way
 27 while at the scene of an accident, illness, or emergency;

28 (4) trespass on [UPON] property at or near the scene of an accident,
 29 illness, or emergency at any time of day or night;

30 (5) enter a building, including a private dwelling, or premises where a
 31 report of an injury or illness has taken place or where there is a reasonable cause to

1 believe an individual or operational canine has been injured or is ill to render
 2 emergency medical care; and

3 (6) direct the removal or destruction of a motor vehicle or other thing
 4 that the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic determines
 5 is necessary to prevent further harm to injured or ill individuals or operational
 6 canines.

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 18.08.086(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) A person certified or licensed under AS 18.08.082 who administers
 9 emergency medical services to an injured or sick person or who, under AS 18.08.093,
 10 administers emergency medical services to an operational canine, a person or
 11 public agency that employs, sponsors, directs, or controls the activities of persons
 12 certified or licensed under AS 18.08.082 who administer emergency medical services
 13 to an injured or sick person or who, under AS 18.08.093, administer emergency
 14 medical services to an operational canine, or a health care professional or
 15 emergency medical dispatcher acting within the scope of the person's certification or
 16 licensure who directs or advises a person to administer emergency medical services to
 17 an injured or sick person is not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or
 18 omission in administering those services or giving that advice or those directions if the
 19 administering, advising, and directing are done in good faith and the injured or sick
 20 person or operational canine reasonably seems to be in immediate danger of serious
 21 harm or death. This subsection does not preclude liability for civil damages that are
 22 the proximate result of gross negligence or intentional misconduct, nor preclude
 23 imposition of liability on a person or public agency that employs, sponsors, directs, or
 24 controls the activities of persons certified or licensed under AS 18.08.082 if the act or
 25 omission is a proximate result of a breach of duty to act created under this chapter. In
 26 this subsection, "gross negligence" means reckless, wilful, or wanton misconduct.

27 * **Sec. 4.** AS 18.08.087 is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 18.08.087. Disclosure of medical records.** When requested for the
 29 purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician, mobile
 30 intensive care paramedic, or physician who provided emergency medical care or other
 31 assistance to a sick or injured person, a licensed physician, advanced practice

1 registered nurse, or physician assistant may disclose to an emergency medical
 2 technician, [A] mobile intensive care paramedic, or physician the medical or hospital
 3 records of a sick or injured person to whom the paramedic, technician, or physician is
 4 providing or has rendered emergency medical care or assistance. [HOWEVER, THE
 5 DISCLOSING PHYSICIAN, ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE, OR
 6 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SHALL LIMIT DISCLOSURE UNDER THIS SECTION
 7 TO THE RECORDS THAT ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE
 8 DISCLOSER FOR EVALUATION OF THE PARAMEDIC'S, TECHNICIAN'S, OR
 9 PHYSICIAN'S PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL
 10 CARE OR ASSISTANCE. A MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE PARAMEDIC,
 11 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE TECHNICIAN, OR PHYSICIAN TO WHOM
 12 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS ARE DISCLOSED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY
 13 NOT FURTHER DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION TO A PERSON NOT
 14 ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THAT INFORMATION UNDER THIS SECTION OR
 15 ANOTHER LAW.]

16 * **Sec. 5.** AS 18.08.087 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

17 (b) When requested for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an
 18 emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who provided
 19 emergency medical care or other assistance to a sick or injured operational canine, a
 20 licensed veterinarian may disclose to an emergency medical technician or mobile
 21 intensive care paramedic the medical or hospital records of a sick or injured
 22 operational canine to whom the technician or paramedic is providing or has rendered
 23 emergency medical care or assistance.

24 (c) An individual making a disclosure under this section shall limit the
 25 disclosure to the records that are considered necessary by the discloser for evaluation
 26 of the technician's, paramedic's, or physician's performance in providing the
 27 emergency medical care or assistance. An emergency medical care technician, mobile
 28 intensive care paramedic, physician, or veterinarian to whom confidential records are
 29 disclosed under this section may not further disclose the information to a person not
 30 entitled to receive that information under this section or another law.

31 * **Sec. 6.** AS 18.08 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 18.08.093. Emergency medical services for operational canines. (a) If a veterinarian is unavailable to provide emergency medical services to an operational canine in a reasonable amount of time, an emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic may provide emergency medical services to the operational canine as long as the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic

(1) has received training on providing emergency medical services to operational canines;

(2) is trained to provide comparable medical services to a human;

(3) is authorized to provide the comparable medical service to a human under the scope of the emergency medical technician's or mobile intensive care paramedic's certification or license; and

(4) meets at least one of the following requirements:

(A) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic has obtained informed consent from the owner of the operational canine or a person authorized to make medical decisions about the operational canine;

(B) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic is employed by the governmental agency that owns or has authority to make medical decisions about the operational canine; or

(C) the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic provides the emergency medical service in accordance with a written protocol developed and approved by a veterinarian.

(b) An emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic who provides an emergency medical service to an operational canine under (a) of this section shall

(1) transfer the operational canine to a licensed veterinarian at the earliest practicable opportunity; and

(2) comply with all laws governing the administration of drugs or biologics to a human when administering a drug or biologic to an operational canine.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 18.08.100(b) is amended to read:

(b) If an individual certified or licensed under this chapter determines in the course of a telehealth encounter with a patient that some or all of the encounter will extend beyond the individual's authorized scope of practice, the individual shall advise the patient that the individual is not authorized to provide some or all of the services to the patient, recommend that the patient contact an appropriate provider for the services the individual is not authorized to provide, and limit the encounter to only those services the individual is authorized to provide. **If the patient is an operational canine, the individual shall provide the advice and recommendation to the person who owns or is authorized to make medical decisions about the operational canine.** The individual certified or licensed under this chapter may not charge for any portion of an encounter that extends beyond the individual's authorized scope of practice.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 18.08.200 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(15) "operational canine" means a dog used

(A) by law enforcement or other government agencies; or

(B) in search and rescue operations;

(16) "veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed under AS 08.98.

* **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.