

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

CSSB 55 (L&C) Sectional Analysis

1. Section 1

Amends **08.72.050 Regulations**. Adds to this section the power for the board to adopt regulations allowing the prescription and pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of eye disease and also that under agreement with the State Medical Board, it will describe the scope of practice for a licensee to perform ophthalmic surgery and noninvasive procedures.

2. Section 2.

Amends 08.72.181 (d) by requiring specified hours and period of continuing education requirements for the renewal of an optometrist's license but retains delegation of those requirements to the board in regulation.

3. Section 3.

Repeals and reenacts AS 08.72.272(a) to provide that pharmaceutical agents, including controlled substances, may be used by a licensed optometrist if consistent with standards adopted by the board and any limitations on practice under section 5 of the bill.

4. Section 4.

08.72.272 amends and adds new subsections prohibiting an optometrist to make injections into the ocular globe of the eye and limits the prescribing of a controlled substance in a quantity exceeding a 7-day supply and requires a referral to a physician or ophthalmologist if a longer prescription is needed.

5. Section 5.

08.72 is amended and a new section is added **08.72.278 Limitation on Practice**. Provides that a licensee may perform only services within the licensee's education, training and experience as provided by board regulation.

6. Section 6

08.72.300(3) revises the definition of optometry.