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Sponsor Statement

HB 323: “An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Pharmacy; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 323 extends the termination date for the Board of Pharmacy to June 30, 2022. Pursuant to A.S. §08.03.010(c)(16), this Board is scheduled to sunset on June 30th, 2018 if the legislature does not pass legislation extending it.

Legislative Audit reviewed the Board’s operations and determined that it is in the best interest of the state to extend this Board considering recent statutory changes that expand the Board’s responsibilities in relation to the controlled substance prescription database. Therefore, recommendation is made to extend this Board for 4 years or through June 30, 2022.

The Board of Pharmacy is composed of 7 members; 5 licensed pharmacists actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy in the State for a period of 3 years immediately preceding their appointments and 2 members of the public.

The Board also regulates admission into the practice of pharmacy, establishes and enforces compliance with professional standards and adopts regulations. It also establishes and maintains a controlled substance prescription database, and establishes standards for the independent administration by a pharmacist of vaccines, related emergency medications and opioid overdose drugs.

The Board also oversees licensing for pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, pharmacies, wholesale drug distributors located inside the state, licenses drug rooms located inside institutional facilities and also registers pharmacies located outside of the State if a pharmacy ships, mails or delivers prescription drugs to consumers of that state.

These regulations control various aspects of the field, including but not limited to controlling and regulating the practice of pharmacy in Alaska. A.S. §08.80.005 mandates that effective control and regulation is necessary to promote, preserve and protect the public’s health, safety and welfare.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.