



Representative Ivy Spohnholz

House Health & Social Services Committee Chair

Serving House District 16: College Gate, Russian Jack, Nunaka Valley, & Reflection Lake

Committee Member: Education, Energy, Military & Veterans Affairs, Legislative Budget & Audit

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 318

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Social Work Examiners; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 318 extends the Board of Social Work Examiners (board) to June 30, 2026 in accordance with the recommendation with the Division of Legislative Audit.

The board is composed of five members including two licensed clinical social workers, one licensed master social worker, one licensed baccalaureate social worker, and one public member who has never been licensed by the board. Further, Alaska statutes mandate that one of the licensed board members may not be an employee of a federal, state, or local government, or a nonprofit organization. The board regulates over 775 licensed social workers as of March 2017.

The duties of the board include issuing licenses to qualified applicants, establishing continuing education requirements and a code of professional ethics and standards, creating standards for supervisors and supervision, and adopting regulations as necessary.

The Division of Legislative Audit reviewed the operations of the board and concluded that the board is serving the public's interest by effectively licensing and regulating the profession.

The board is currently scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2018 and will have one year to conclude its operations unless the legislature extends the termination date. House Bill 318 mirrors the recommendations of the Division of Legislative Audit, and extends the termination date until June 30, 2026.

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