



# Representative Sam Kito

## Alaska State Legislature

### House District 33

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House Rules

### Contact

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### Sponsor Statement

#### CS for House Bill 275 (FIN)

*"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; relating to license renewal and criminal history record checks for massage therapists; and providing for an effective date."*

House Bill 275 extends the termination date for the Board of Massage Therapists until June 30, 2024 and changes the annual fingerprint requirement to every six (6) years.

Per statute, this board is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2018 with a one-year wind down if the legislature does not pass legislation extending it. The licensing function will remain after this date; however, the administrative functions of the board would transfer to the department.

Legislative Audit reviewed the board's operations and determined that it is in the best interest of the state to extend this board. The audit makes three recommendations and recommends a four-year extension with a new termination date of June 30, 2022. This is half of the full eight-year extension that Legislative Audit is authorized to provide.

In light of our current fiscal situation, the House Finance Committee recommended the legislature extend the board's termination date to June 30, 2024. This recommendation is based on the potential savings to Legislative Audit and the steps the Board taking to address the issues raised by the audit.

The board currently oversees over 1,400 active licensees and is made up of five members. State law requires four board positions be filled by licensed massage therapists actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy for a period of three years immediately preceding the appointment. The remaining position is to be filled by an individual from the general public. Statute prohibits the public member from being a licensed health care provider, an employee of the State, or a current or former member of another occupational licensing board.

The continuation of the Board of Massage Therapists is important to the health and safety of Alaskans.

Thank you for your support of House Bill 275.