



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN

Chairman

State Capitol, Room 427

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

(907) 465-2828

Sen. Kelly Merrick, Vice-Chair

Sen. Forrest Dunbar

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson

Sen. Robert Yundt

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 98

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

Senate Bill 98 proposes to extend the sunset date of the Board of Veterinary Examiners by six years.

In the spring of 2024, our Division of Legislative Audit completed a sunset audit of the Board. In this audit, it was determined that overall, the Board has operated in the public's interest by conducting meetings in an effective manner; actively amending regulations to address statutory changes, protect the public, and improve the licensing process; and effectively licensing veterinary professionals.

As you make an in-depth review the audit, you will see our auditor made note of three issues which should be addressed by the Board as it moves forward. First, the audit concluded that board related cases were not consistently investigated in a timely manner. Second, two board positions had expired terms, and as of January 31, 2024, one board position had been vacant for 31 months. Third, the audit found that the final version of regulation changes published in 2023 was not reviewed or approved by the board.

Currently, the Board will sunset on June 30, 2025. To allow the Board to continue working in the public interest, SB 98 follows the recommended six-year extension to June 30, 2031.