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Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 275

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

House Bill 275 extends the termination date for the Board of Massage Therapists until June 30, 2022.

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.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. The Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing's (DCBPL) director, in consultation with the board, should take action to improve procedures to ensure licensure requirements are met.
2. DCBPL's director should address the Federal Bureau of Investigations audit findings and concerns.
3. The director of the Office of the Governor, Boards and Commissions should work to fill the public member position.

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.