

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Lora Reinbold
House District 26

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 239

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

Each year, the Division of Legislative Audit reviews state boards and commissions to determine if they should be reestablished per AS 24.44. The Division of Legislative Audit reviewed the activities of the Board of Examiners in Optometry (BEO). The purpose of this audit was to determine whether there is a demonstrated public need for BEO's continued existence and whether it has been operating in an effective manner.

The Division of Legislative Audit concluded that the board's termination date should be extended until June 30, 2022, as the BEO is serving the public's interest by effectively licensing and regulating optometrists. The recommendations from the prior sunset audit (recommended the legislature consider amending statutes to support license endorsements for the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents) have been resolved. The Division of Legislative Audit makes one new recommendation:

- a. Recommends the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing should continue efforts to improve the investigative case management system's integrity and confidentiality.

I urge your support on this legislation to allow the Board of Examiners in Optometry to continue to carry out their duties as outlined in statute to regulate and control the practice of optometry and to protect and promote the public health, welfare, and safety of Alaskans.