

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Lora Reinbold
House District 26

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 242

"An Act extending the termination date of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; 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 State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board (PTOT). The purpose of this audit was to determine whether there is a demonstrated public need for the PTOT'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 PTOT is serving the public's interest by effectively licensing and regulating physical therapist, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists, and occupational therapy assistants. The recommendation from the prior sunset audit (recommended the Office of the Governor appoint board member in a timely fashion) has been resolved. The Division of Legislative Audit makes one new recommendation:

- a. CBLP should continue efforts to improve the investigative case management system's integrity and confidentiality.

I urge your support on this legislation to allow the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board to continue to carry out their duties to effectively license and regulate physical and occupational therapists and to protect and promote the public health, welfare, and safety of Alaskans.