

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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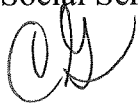
North to the Future

**Senator Cathy Giessel**  
Senate District N

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 19, 2015

**TO:** Senator Bert Stedman  
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee

**FROM:** Senator Cathy Giessel 

**RE:** Request for Hearing, Senate Bill 55, Optometry & Optometrists

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I respectfully request that **Senate Bill 55** "Optometry and Optometrists" be scheduled for the Senate Health & Social Services Committee at your earliest convenience.

SB 55 modernizes and updates the Alaska Optometry Statute. It moves the continuing education (CE) requirements back into regulation. Continuing education is still required by current statute, but the hours and subjects will be determined by the Board of Optometry, as with other professions.

SB 55 allows the board to determine prescribed drug schedules anticipating federal regulations that may change again in the future. This bill updates the optometry definition to reflect current education and training, but specifically prohibits invasive surgery. It also defines that optometrists must be qualified for any procedure that they perform.

This bill also further defines and clarifies the prohibited surgical procedures under an "invasive surgery" definition. Alaska optometrists already do superficial surgical procedures such as removal of corneal foreign bodies under current statute, but nothing invasive would be allowed.

Attached you will find:

1. SB 55 version E
2. SB 55 Sponsor Statement
3. SB 55 Sectional Analysis Forthcoming
4. SB 55 Letters of Support Forthcoming

Please contact Jane Conway, 465-3623, in my office if you need any further information.

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