Alaska State legislature

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SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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**Senate CS for House Bill 289 (FIN)**

**Section Analysis**

**Section One**

Amends AS 08.13.010 by changing the membership of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers from six members to seven members. One barber seat is replaced with an at-large licensed member. One licensed nail technician or manicurist is added to the board.

**Section Two**

Amends AS 08.72.050 by adding the power for the board to adopt regulations allowing the prescription and pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of eye disease, it will describe the scope of practice for a licensee to perform ophthalmic surgery and noninvasive procedures.

**Section Three**

Amends AS 08.72.181 (d) by requiring specified hours and period of continuing education requirements for the renewal of an optometrist's license but retains delegation of those requirements to the board in regulation.

**Section Four**

Repeals and reenacts AS 08.72.272(a) to provide that pharmaceutical agents, including controlled substances, may be used by a licensed optometrist if consistent with standards adopted by the board and any limitations on practice under section six of the bill.

**Section Five**

Amends AS 08.72.272 and adds new subsections prohibiting an optometrist to make injections into the ocular globe of the eye and limits the prescribing of a controlled substance in a quantity exceeding a 7-day supply and requires a referral to a physician or ophthalmologist if a longer prescription is needed.

**Section Six**

AS 08.72 is amended and a new section, AS 08.72.278 Limitation on Practice**,** is added. Provides that a licensee may perform only services within the licensee's education, training and experience as provided by board regulation.

**Section Seven**

08.72.300(3) revises the definition of optometry.

**Section Eight**

Provides uncodified transition language for the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers to implement the changes in AS 08.13.010 as board members rotate off the board.