

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
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Explanation of Changes SB 36

Optometry; Optometrists

Version A to committee substitute Version J

The language in the committee substitute gives the Board of Optometry authority to regulate its practice, reflecting the same regulatory authority given to the other prescribing practices such as medicine, nursing and dentistry.

In this new version J we have removed the reference to ophthalmic surgery from the bill (version A, page 1, lines 12-13, and also on page 2, lines 21-23).

It is unnecessary for this language to be placed in *statute*; optometric procedures, within optometry's scope of practice, can be regulated by the board, all requiring robust public comment from stakeholders and rigorous Department of Law oversight.

This is the current process for the Medical Board. The Board of Nursing. The Board of Dentistry. And so should it be for the Board of Optometry. The new CS reflects that intent in version J.

2-22-17