

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

1500 W Benson Boulevard
Anchorage AK 99503
907-269-0181



State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182
907-465-4843
800-892-4843

North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

Sponsor Statement **CS SB 36 Optometry & Optometrists**

Senate Bill 36 modernizes and updates the Alaska Optometry Statute, as many sections are over 50 years old. It authorizes the optometry board to regulate its practice as do the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Under SB 36 the board will continue to adopt regulations, updating them to current education, certification and practice.

Continuing education, required by current statute, will be determined by the board as with other professions. This change allows the board flexibility to control CE requirements and is recommended by the Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. The current regulations require more CE hours than the statute subsection deleted by this bill.

SB 36 authorizes the optometry board to continue to regulate prescription pharmaceutical agents, including standards and limitations on practice determined by the board.

SB 36 ensures that the optometry board, with the oversight of the Department of Law, may not authorize any procedure beyond the scope of the licensee's education, training, and experience.

The optometry definition in this bill is updated to reflect current education, certification and modern-day practice. This allows for future new and improved diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, while not having to return to the legislature for every new technological advance.

Please join me in support of Senate Bill 36.

Chair Senate Resources Committee
Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov