

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 280: Extending the Board of Marital and Family Therapy

House Bill 280 extends the termination date for the Board of Marital and Family Therapy until June 30th, 2026.

Per statute, this board is scheduled to sunset on June 30th, 2018 with a one-year wind down if the legislature does not pass legislation extending it. After this date, administrative functions of the board would transfer to the department.

Legislative Audit reviewed the board's operations and determined that it is in the best interest of the state to extend this board. The audit makes no new recommendations and recommends a full eight-year extension with a new termination date of June 30th, 2026.

The Board of Marital and Family Therapy is composed of three Alaska licensed marital and family therapists and two members of the public. They oversee licensing in this area and adopt regulations when necessary. These regulations control various aspects of the field, including but not limited to training and education requirements before practice, continuing education requirements, an ethical code, and establishing standards for supervisors of therapists.

The continuation of the Board of Marital and Family Therapy provides an important function in protecting the public interest of Alaskans by licensing marital and family therapists and ensuring Alaskans receive safe, ethical, and effective psychological care.

I invite you to discuss this issue with me further and urge you to support this legislation.

Please contact my staff Megan Holland with any questions: 465-4939,
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