

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

716 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage AK 99501-2133
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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2017

TO: Senator David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Cathy Giessel 

RE: Request for Hearing, Senate Bill 36, Optometry & Optometrists

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill 36** "Optometry and Optometrists" be scheduled for the Senate Health and Social Services Committee at your earliest convenience.

SB 36 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 self-governing professions.

SB 36 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 and defines that optometrists must be qualified for any procedure that they perform.

Senate Bill 36 updates the definition of Optometry to reflect current and modern practices.

Attached you will find:

1. SB 36 version A
2. SB 36 Sponsor Statement
3. SB 36 Sectional Analysis
4. SB 36 Letters of Support (forthcoming next week)
5. SB 36 Backup Documents (forthcoming next week)
6. SB 36 Fiscal Notes (forthcoming)

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

[Senator Cathy Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)