

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

(907) 465-3707

SB 172 SPONSOR STATEMENT: STATE MEDICAL BOARD EXTENSION

“An Act extending the termination date of the State Medical Board; and providing for an effective date.”

SB 172 will extend the termination date of the State Medical Board (board).

The board has served the public’s interest by effectively licensing physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, physician assistants, and paramedics. The board monitored licensees and worked to ensure only qualified individuals practiced in Alaska. Furthermore, the board developed and adopted certain regulatory changes to protect the public, improve the licensing process, and improve the delivery of services.

The recent audit completed by the Division of Legislative Audit proposed a termination date that is three years less than the eight year maximum allowed per statute. The Senate Labor & Commerce committee amended the bill to reduce the termination date by two more years for a sunset date in June 30, 2023. Additionally, the same committee required that the legislative audit division submit a report concerning compliance of the recommendations from the audit to the medical board within one year after the effective date. The reduced extensions and one-year report requirement are due to the audit’s finding that that board had failed to follow through on a few set priorities. First, the board failed to consistently report license actions to the Federation of State Medical Boards. Second, the board also failed to adopt regulations governing registration in the controlled substance prescription database. These regulations require licensees to register in a controlled substances prescription database. Thirdly, the board did not monitor compliance with the database registration requirement. The board is tasked with adequately monitoring licensees to ensure those with a DEA number registers with the controlled substance prescription database.

I respectfully request that the termination date of the board be extended to align with the Senate Labor & Commerce committee’s recommendation of June 30, 2023, as well as requiring the one-year report from legislative audit.