



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

---

## Senator Bill Wielechowski

*Serving East Anchorage*

[CHAIR  
RULES](#)

[VICE CHAIR  
RESOURCES](#)

[MEMBER  
STATE AFFAIRS  
LEGISLATIVE  
BUDGET &  
AUDIT  
JOINT ARMED  
SERVICES  
WORLD TRADE](#)

---

[SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK  
99801  
\(907\) 465-2435](#)

[INTERIM  
1500 W  
BENSON BLVD  
ANCHORAGE,  
AK 99503  
\(907\) 269-0120](#)

### **SB 55 Sponsor Statement: State Medical Board Extension**

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

SB 55 will extend the termination date of the State Medical Board to June 30, 2031.

The State Medical Board (board) effectively licensed physicians, osteopaths, and podiatrists. However, emergency courtesy licenses for physician assistants were not issued in accordance with state law during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was remedied in November 2021 when corrective action was taken by sending letters to non-compliant licensees. Furthermore, the board developed and adopted regulations to protect the public, improve the licensing process, and expand access to care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The last extension of the board was in 2020 when the Division of Legislative Audit proposed a termination date that was three years less than the eight-year maximum allowed per statute. The Senate Labor & Commerce Committee then amended the bill to reduce the termination date by an additional two years for a sunset date of June 30, 2023. Since 2020, the board has addressed all recommendations from the previous audit by adopting regulations to guide the process for registering with the Controlled Substance Prescription Database (CSPD); developed procedures to ensure licensees with a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number register in the CSPD; and worked with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing’s (DCBPL) director to establish and implement procedures to ensure the board reports disciplinary actions in accordance with state law.

As a result of these successful implementations, the Division of Legislative Audit proposed in July 2022 that the legislature extend the board’s termination date to June 30, 2031, which is the maximum extension allowed per statute.

I respectfully request support from my colleagues to pass SB 55 in a timely manner.