



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
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Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 228

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 228 proposes to extend the sunset date of the Board of Massage Therapists by six years.

In the fall of 2023, our Division of Legislative Audit completed a sunset audit of the Board. In this audit, it was determined that overall, the Board has operated in the public's interest by conducting its meetings in an effective manner as well as actively amending regulations to address statutory changes, improving the licensing process, and enhancing public safety.

As you make an in-depth review the audit, you will see our auditor made note of four issues which should be addressed by the Board and the Department as it moves forward. First, the Department staff should help develop standards to ensure license approvals are not based on outdated documentation; the Commissioner should work to improve recruitment and retention of investigators as well as DCBPL licensing staff and the Board should give consideration to increasing licensing fees.

Currently, the Board will sunset on June 30, 2024. To allow the Board to continue working in the public interest, SB 228 follows the recommended six-year extension to June 30, 2030.

I urge your support of this legislation.