

**HB**

**405**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

(11)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: February 23, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/8/96

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 405

HOUSE BILL NO. 405

EXTEND BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Examiners in Optometry; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute C.S HB 405 (STA) [ ] the same title [ ] a new title

[ ] additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee [ ] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[X] fiscal note(s) CED, 1/16/96

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Richard Foster</i>	Foster	X			
<i>Gladys Mulder</i>	Mulder	X			
<i>Paul Parnell</i>	Parnell	X			
<i>Wm Kohring</i>	Kohring	X			
<i>Sam Grussendorf</i>	Grussendorf	X			
<i>Ray Brown</i>	Brown	X			
<i>Pete Kelly</i>	Kelly	X			
<i>Gene Theriault</i>	Theriault	X			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

*Richard Foster*  
FOSTER

# FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: HB 405  
 (H) Publish Date: 1/16/96

STATE OF ALASKA  
 1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: Commerce and Economic Development  
 Title: An Act extending the termination date of the SRU: Occupational Licensing  
 Board of Optometry;.... Component: Operations  
 Sponsor: House Labor & Commerce  
 Requestor: Representative James COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1844

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7
TRAVEL	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
CONTRACTUAL	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 General Fund						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other 1091 Designated PR	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY 96) cost: \$ 27.0

POSITIONS	
FULL-TIME	
PART-TIME	
TEMPORARY	

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
 HB 405 extends the Board of Optometry to June 30, 2001. The costs identified above are included in the FY 97 operating budget and therefore, new funds are not required. Costs shown represent only Direct expenses of the board based on FY 95 activity. Administrative Indirect expenses are also assessed annually per capita by the number of current licensees. FY 95 program costs (direct and administrative indirect) totalled \$27.0. Fees were adjusted in October 1994 to cover full costs of the program over a two-year period and will be reviewed again prior to the December 31, 1996 renewal.

Prepared by: Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Officer Phone: 465-2144  
 Division: Occupational Licensing Date: January 10, 1996  
 Approved by Commissioner: William L. Hensley Date: 1-11-96  
 Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

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**COMMITTEE COPY**

# House Labor & Commerce Committee

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
907-465-4954

## SPONSOR STATEMENT CS HB 405 (STA)

CS HB 405 (STA), which was sponsored by the House Labor and Commerce Committee, would extend the Board of Examiners in Optometry to June 30, 2002. This board, which is due to sunset this year, performs a valuable mission for Alaska by regulating the licensure and practice of optometry.

In addition, CS HB 405 (STA) clarifies a current point of confusion by providing that employees of optometrists and physicians may perform their assigned tasks without triggering the regulatory oversight of the Board of Dispensing Opticians. It eliminates a current proscription on having branch offices. It eliminates certain visual acuity and health requirements and thereby removes the potential for litigation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Finally, it eliminates an inflexible and unworkable deadline for filing licensure applications and permits future deadlines to be established by regulation.

It respectfully is submitted that CS HB 405 (STA) is consistent with the recent legislative audit report dated October 4, 1995. Your support is urged.

# House Labor & Commerce Committee

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
907-465-4954

## CS HB 405 (STA) SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

### Section 1:

The Board of Examiners in Optometry is extended to June 30, 2002.

### Section 2:

Employees of physicians and optometrists, when performing duties delegated to them, are exempted from regulation by the Board of Dispensing Opticians.

### Section 3:

This section makes it clear that persons employed by physicians and optometrists may perform assigned duties without engaging in the illegal practice of optometry.

### Section 4:

This section repeals the existing requirement that applications for licensure be filed at least 15 days prior to the examination and permits the Board to establish application deadlines by regulation.

### Section 5:

An existing prohibition on branch offices is repealed. Existing vision and health requirements for licensure are repealed.

### Section 6:

The Act has an immediate effective date.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Division of Legislative Audit



P. O. Box 113300  
Juneau, AK 99811-3300  
(907) 465-3830  
FAX (907) 465-2347

October 4, 1995

Members of the Legislative Budget  
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 of the Alaska Statutes, the attached report is submitted for your review.

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

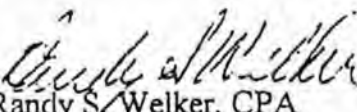
October 4, 1995

Audit Control Number  
08-1436-96

This audit was conducted under the requirements of AS 44.66.050 and the authority of AS 24.20.271(1). In the report we assess the operations and performance of the Board of Examiners in Optometry utilizing the criteria set out in AS 44.66.050(c). This criteria relates to assessing the demonstrated public need for a given board, commission, agency, or program subject to the sunset review process. Currently under AS 08.03.010(c)(19), the Board of Examiners in Optometry is scheduled for termination on June 30, 1996. The board would be allowed one year in which to conclude its affairs.

In our opinion, the Board of Examiners in Optometry should be reestablished. The regulation and licensing of qualified professionals is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. We recommend that the legislature extend the Board of Examiners in Optometry until June 30, 2002.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and the criteria set out in AS 44.66.050(c). Fieldwork procedures utilized in developing this report are discussed further in the Objectives, Scope, and Methodology section on page one.

  
Randy S. Welker, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

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## OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the intent of Titles 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the Board of Examiners in Optometry. As required by AS 44.66.050(a), the legislative committee of reference shall consider this report during the legislative oversight process to determine whether the board should be reestablished. Currently, AS 08.03.010(c)(19) states that the board will terminate on June 30, 1996, and will have one year from that date to conclude its affairs.

### Objectives

Our specific audit objectives were:

1. To determine if the termination date of the board should be extended.
2. To determine if the board is operating in the interest of the public. In assessing the operations and performance of the board, we utilized the criteria set out in AS 44.66.050(c). Criteria set out in this statute relate to the determination of a demonstrated public need for the board.

### Scope and Methodology

Our audit reviewed the operations and activities of the Board of Examiners in Optometry for the period of FY 92 through FY 95.

During the course of our examination, we reviewed and evaluated the following:

1. Compliance with statutes and regulations related to the licensing of optometrists. Our evaluation addressed consideration of applications, testing of candidates, and continuing education necessary for an individual to maintain his/her optometry license in good standing.
2. Minutes of meetings of the Board of Examiners in Optometry.
3. Annual reports issued by the board.
4. Complaints filed with the Division of Occupational Licensing and the Department of Law.

We also conducted interviews with employees of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing, and the Department of Law.

## ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Board of Examiners in Optometry was established under the provisions of Title 8, Chapter 72 of the Alaska Statutes. The board consists of five members appointed by the Governor and subject to legislative confirmation. Four board members must be licensed, practicing optometrists who have been residents in the State for at least three years. The statute also requires one member of the general public to sit on the board.

The board regulates the practice of optometry in the State by setting education, training, and work experience standards necessary for an individual to be licensed as an optometrist.

Alaska Statute (AS 08.72) defines the practice of optometry as the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eyes and visual system, other than by use of laser, x-rays, surgery, or pharmaceutical agents.<sup>1</sup>

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### Members of the Board of Examiners in Optometry (As of June 30, 1995)\*

James W. Matson, Optometrist & Chairperson  
Lynn J. Coon, Optometrist & Secretary  
Steve S. Dobson, Optometrist  
Randall Christiansen, Optometrist

\* As of the date of this report Governor Knowles has not appointed a public member to the Board of Examiners in Optometry (See Recommendation No. 3).

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The board's duties and responsibilities under statute include:

1. Holding a minimum of one meeting per year.
2. Examining and issuing licenses to qualified applicants.
3. Holding hearings in order to impose disciplinary sanctions on persons who violate optometry licensing statutes and/or regulations.
4. Adopting regulations necessary to enforce the statutes relating to the board.
5. Adopting a code of ethical practice for optometry.

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<sup>1</sup> Recent statutory amendments provide that optometrists may obtain a license endorsement that permits them to prescribe and administer pharmaceutical agents. These pharmaceutical agents (drugs) may only be topically applied to the human eye and its appendages. To obtain such an endorsement an individual must pass "written and practical portions of an examination on ocular pharmacology, approved by the board, that tests the licensee's or the applicant's knowledge of the characteristics, pharmacological effects, indications, contraindications, and emergency care associated with the prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents."

Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent in addition to having graduated from a recognized college or school of optometry. Additionally, all applicants must certify that they are in good health with no contagious or infectious diseases and have a visual acuity correctable to 20/40. Licensed optometrists are required to obtain 12 hours of continuing education per year.<sup>2</sup>

Alaska's optometry statutes and regulations do not allow for reciprocity with other states. Optometrists licensed in other states wishing to practice in Alaska must first become licensed in Alaska. Applicants that have passed a written examination in another jurisdiction may obtain waiver from passing the written examination requirement.<sup>3</sup> However, AS 08.72.170 specifically states "*a waiver of the practical or oral portions of the examinations may not be given.*"

To become licensed in Alaska optometrists licensed in other states must provide the department with official documentation verifying Alaskan optometry educational requirements have been met. They must also apply for and pass all parts of the state optometry examination, pay all examination and application fees, and fulfill all other licensing requirements.

State law requires all optometrists licensed in Alaska to license each of their branch offices. There are few requirements for the licensing of branch offices. Optometrists must submit completed applications and pay all the required fees to the Division of Occupational Licensing biennially. Currently, the board is no longer enforcing the statute and the division is no longer collecting the required fees.<sup>4</sup>

The board grants license endorsements for optometrists to prescribe and use pharmaceutical agents. The board also grants endorsements for practitioners to only use pharmaceutical agents. Currently, all applicants graduating from optometry schools automatically qualify for pharmaceutical prescription and use license endorsement, after meeting all other licensing requirements.

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<sup>2</sup> If an optometrist maintains a license endorsement for the prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents as discussed in footnote one then they must obtain additional hours of continuing education.

<sup>3</sup>The state examination consists of three sections — oral, written, and practical. Alaska Statute 08.72.170 grants the board the authority to waive the written portion of the state examination. The board may not waive either the practical or oral sections. The written section of the examination may be waived if;

- 1) The applicant meets all other examination criteria per AS 08.72.140.
- 2) The applicant holds a current license by examination in another state or a province of Canada if they have been established in an ethical practice for at least three years.
- 3) The applicant can show satisfactory evidence of having passed the written portion of the examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- 4) The applicant has not had a certificate or license revoked for cause in any state, territory, or foreign country.

<sup>4</sup>AS 08.72.125, and 12 AAC 48.030 relate to the licensing of branch offices. Neither clearly defines when branch office licenses are required, rather they address situations only when they are not (See Recommendation No. 1).

Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing (OccLic) provides administrative and investigatory assistance to the Board of Examiners in Optometry. Administrative assistance includes budgetary services and functions such as: collecting fees, maintaining files, receiving and issuing application forms, and publishing notice of examinations and meetings.

Alaska Statute 08.01.065, mandates the department, with the concurrence of the board, adopt regulations to establish the amount and manner of payment of application fees, examination fees, license fees, registration fees, permit fees, investigation fees, and all other fees as appropriate for the occupations covered by the statute.

Results of our reviews during prior audits determined OccLic has implemented timekeeping policies and procedures to ensure licensing fees for boards and commissions include and closely reflect actual administrative, investigative, and overhead costs incurred by the division.

Further, under AS 08.01.087, OccLic has the authority to act on its own initiative or in response to a complaint and may conduct an investigation if it appears a person has engaged or is about to engage in a practice over which OccLic has authority. OccLic can issue an order that the person stop the practice, bring an action in Superior Court to enjoin the act, examine the books and records of an individual, and issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and records.

## REPORT CONCLUSIONS

In our opinion, the Board of Examiners in Optometry should be reestablished. The regulation and licensing of qualified optometrists is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. The board provides this service by establishing minimum educational and experience requirements that provide reasonable assurance that persons licensed are qualified. Also, assurances that those licensed act in a competent manner is provided by active investigation of complaints and revocation or suspension of licenses when appropriate.

The Board of Examiners in Optometry has been found to satisfy a public purpose and has demonstrated its ability to conduct its business in a satisfactory manner. The Board of Examiners in Optometry statutes, regulations, policies and procedures are current. The board carries out its regulatory oversight function in a professional, competent, and efficient manner.

Alaska Statute 08.03.010(c)(19) requires the Board of Examiners in Optometry be terminated on June 30, 1996. Under AS 08.03.020, the board has a one-year period to administratively conclude its affairs. We recommend legislation be enacted to extend the board's termination date to June 30, 2002.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation No. 1

The legislature should consider amending and repealing various statutory provisions related to the Board of Examiners in Optometry in order to improve administrative efficiency and consistency with current practice.

Current statutory provisions related to the Board of Examiners in Optometry contribute to administrative "bottlenecks" in the licensing of optometrists. Additionally, certain statutory requirements are apparently no longer relevant to conventions of current practice. Specifically, we suggest the legislature consider:

1. Eliminating reference to, or extending the deadline for applications. Under current statute (AS 08.72.150) applicants for licensure may submit their applications and supporting documentation 15 days before examination or license expiration date. This 15 day deadline has caused a workload "bottleneck" for the licensing examiner during renewal periods. During these periods, the licensing examiner must process large volumes of various types of documentation received from applicants and license holders. He must check the applications for completeness and follow-up on missing documentation, in preparation for final review and approval of the full board.

The 15 day deadline allows little time for the licensing examiner to request additional documentation and to make corrections before the board reviews applicant files. The statutes for most other licensing boards leave the setting of the deadline to the discretion of the Division of Occupational Licensing (OccLic) or provide for more time than 15 days. We suggest that the legislature repeal AS 08.72.150 and leave the establishment of administrative deadlines to OccLic and the board through the adoption of regulations.

2. Repealing license requirements related to branch offices. At a June 1994 meeting, the board directed OccLic to no longer enforce AS 08.72.125 which requires the licensing of each branch office of any licensed optometrist's practice. This statute directs that "*a person may not practice, or attempt or offer to practice, optometry without obtaining a license for each branch office from the board.*"

Since the board's decision, no collection notices have been sent to optometrists and branch office licensing fees have not been actively collected by OccLic. The only occasion these fees have been collected has been when an optometrist has voluntarily remitted payment. From our review of statutory history and the discussion of the board it appears the conditions and concerns that originally gave rise to branch office licensing requirements no longer exist. We suggest the legislature repeal this statute.

3. Repeal health and visual acuity requirements. Currently, AS 08.72.140 requires applicants for examination and licensure to provide the division with notarized or certified documentation verifying they are free from contagious and infectious diseases and have visual acuity of 20/40 in at least one eye as corrected. With one exception, no other profession — not even those that are typically thought of as being more medically related such as physicians, dentists, or nurses — has such a disease-free requirement.

Enactment of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act increased both the number and types of discrimination claims which may be asserted by individuals and enforced by a court of law. The potential for litigation against the board and/or State based on assertions that these two requirements are discriminatory may now exist. We suggest that OccLic obtain an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding the advisability and legality of these requirements. We also suggest the legislature reconsider these statutory requirements in both AS 08.74.140 and AS 08.72.181 (which pertains to renewal of licenses).

4. Clarify the status of unlicensed professionals supervised by optometrists. There is a unique professional and commercial overlap between licensed optometrists and dispensing opticians. Both professionals are licensed to dispense eyeglasses and contact lenses. Both professions are allowed to supervise unlicensed individuals to assist them in the dispensing of corrective lenses. However, it has been asserted by dispensing opticians that all unlicensed assistants should be registered optician apprentices — subject to requirements set out in the optician licensing statutes. Analysis by the Department of Law supports this interpretation of current statute.

There are allegations that despite the requirements of statute (as further interpreted by the Department of Law) many optometrists utilize unlicensed or unregistered assistants to dispense corrective lenses. Twice in recent years the Board of Examiners in Optometry has sought legislation that would exempt staff supervised by its licensees from having to be either an optician or a registered apprentice. We suggest the legislature consider statutory amendments to clarify the current statute that sets the demarcation line of responsibilities between the two professions.

#### Recommendation No. 2

The Division of Occupational Licensing should enforce only those optometry application requirements set out in either statute and regulation.

OccLic has been enforcing optometry application requirements not required by state statutes or regulations. Specifically, application forms for optometric examination and licensure require applicants to submit certified or notarized copies of an unmounted 3" x 3" photograph taken within six months previous to filing the application.

Applicants must also submit official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended prior to optometry college to the Division of Occupational Licensing. All applications include a

statement to the effect that these items must be submitted to the division before the applications will be considered for licensure.

Neither the optometry statutes or regulations direct that applicants to meet these submission requirements. It appears the division has unilaterally imposed these requirements without clear legal authority. In our view, there is no compelling justification to support imposition of either requirement.

### Recommendation No. 3

The Office of the Governor should appoint a public member to the board as soon as feasibly possible.

State law (AS 08.72.140) requires that "*four board members shall be licensed, practicing optometrists who have been residents for at least three years. One board member shall be a public member* [emphasis added]." Over the past three fiscal years the Board of Examiners in Optometry has operated for extended periods without benefit of a public member. During the period of FY 93 - FY 95 there was no appointed public member for four of the board's seven meetings.

This problem has developed in part from the actions of the Knowles administration. Upon assuming office, the governor removed a public member that Governor Hickel had appointed in December 1992. Although the Hickel-appointed member was removed, no public member was appointed in a expedient manner by the Knowles administration. As of the date of this report, no appointment has been made. It appears to us that the Hickel-appointed member, subject to legislative confirmation, could have served until the Knowles administration provided for a replacement appointment. Alaska Statute 08.01.035 which states "*members of boards . . . are appointed for staggered terms of four years. A member of a board serves until a successor is appointed* [emphasis added]."

The public board member serves as a representative of the citizenry at large. The intent behind placing public members on licensing boards is to provide more access to the board's actions and deliberations. The presence of such a member serves as a check against a professional licensing board becoming too insular or self-serving in its actions.

2/23/96

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date RETURNED to Committee: January 24, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 2-22-96

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 405

HOUSE BILL NO. 405

EXTEND BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Examiners in Optometry; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 405 (Sta)  the same title  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  fiscal note(s) CED 1/16/96

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Janette James</i>	James	✓			
<i>Priscilla Porter</i>	Porter	✓			
<i>Juan</i>	Juan	✓			
<i>Ed Willis</i>	Willis	✓			
		(4)			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Janette James*

(7)

# DUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: January 9, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

1/16/96  
Rules  
Fin Ref Act  
1/17/96

Date of Committee Action: 1-16-96

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 405

HOUSE BILL NO. 405

EXTEND BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Examiners in Optometry; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] the same title [ ] a new title

[ ] additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
[ ] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)  
[x] fiscal note(s) CEO [ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATION:		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Janette James</i>	James	✓			
<i>Richard A. Porter</i>	Porter			✓	
<i>Jack Green</i>	Green			✓	
<i>Ivan Robinson</i>	Ivan	✓			
<i>Caren Robinson</i>	Robinson	✓			
<i>Willis Ogan</i>	Willis	✓			
<i>Willis Ogan</i>	Ogan			✓	
		(4)		(3)	

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Janette James*  
James

**HOUSE BILL NO. 405**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

Introduced: 1/9/96

Referred: State Affairs

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Examiners in Optometry;  
2 and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* Section 1. AS 08.03.010(c)(19) is amended to read:

5 (19) Board of Examiners in Optometry (AS 08.72.010) -- June 30, 2001

6 [1996];

7 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).