

HB

343

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FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 343(L&C)
(H) Publish Date: 2/4/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 01-25-02 2:40 PM Dept. Affected: DCED
Title An Act extending the termination date of the BRU: Occupational Licensing (117)
Board of Professional Counselors Component Occupational Licensing
Sponsor House Labor & Commerce
Requester House Labor & Commerce Component No. 2360

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services	27.2	27.2	27.2	27.2		
Travel	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6		
Contractual	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6		
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	51.4	51.4	51.4	51.4	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	51.4	51.4	51.4	51.4		
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other 1156-Receipt Supported Services	51.4	51.4	51.4	51.4		
TOTAL	51.4	51.4	51.4	51.4	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The bill extends the Board of Professional Counselors to June 30, 2005. In accordance with AS 08.03.020, funding is extended one year following the termination date allowing the board to conclude its affairs. The information above identifies direct expenditure and revenue information included in the FY 2003 Operating Budget request.

Prepared by: Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Manager Phone (907) 465-2144
Division Occupational Licensing Date/Time 1/25/02 2:46 PM
Approved by: Deborah B. Sedwick, Commissioner Date 1/25/2002
Agency Department of Community and Economic Development

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Lisa Murkowski Chair
Representative Andrew Halcro Vice-Chair
Representative Pete Kott
Representative Kevin Meyer
Representative Norman Rokeberg
Representative Harry Crawford
Representative Joe Hayes



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HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Sponsor Statement HB 343

Extend Board of Professional Counselors

The Board of Professional Counselors consists of five members appointed by the governor: one public member and four licensed professional counselors. Its duties include licensing professional counselors, establishing criteria for supervisor certification, certifying approved counselor supervisors, and establishing continuing education and training requirements.

Regulation and licensing of professional counselors safeguards the public by promoting competence and integrity of those who hold themselves out to the public as professional counselors. The board is scheduled to terminate June 30, 2002, and if the legislature does not act this session, the board will have one year to conclude its administrative operations. The board operates in an efficient and effective manner and House Bill 343 acknowledges the board's effectiveness and extends its termination date.

House Bill 343 also amends professional counselors' education requirements. Applicants will be required to earn a master's degree in counseling or related professional field from an accredited institution and achieve a total of 60 graduate semester hours. Currently, applicants are required to earn a 48-semester hour master's degree and gain 12 additional semester hours for a total of 60 hours. Not all accredited master's degrees require 48 semester hours, so even applicants with the necessary degree and number of hours were denied because their accredited program did not require 48 hours.

Notably, the Division of Legislative Audit, in its 2001 audit report, recommended the Board of Professional Counselors and the Marital and Family Therapy Board merge. Although there is merit to combining the boards, neither board fully supports a merger at this time. Therefore, House Bill 343 extends the Board of Professional Counselors for three years instead of four, coinciding with the current termination dates of three similar boards (Marital and Family Therapists, Social Workers, and Psychologists) so that the issue of a merger can be revisited.

2-11-02

Division of Occupational Licensing
Department of Community & Economic Development
February 11, 2002

**Proposed Amendments to CSHB 343 (L&C)
Extending the Termination Date of the Board of Professional Counselors; and
Relating to Licensing of Professional Counselors**

Amendment No. 1

passed

Page 2, line 11:

After "regionally"

Insert "c. nationally"

Amendment No. 2

passed

Page 2, line 19:

After "(6) has, after"

Delete "completing the requirement of"

Insert "earning the degree required under"

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 Division: Occupational Licensing
 Approved by: Deborah B. Sedwick, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Community and Economic Development

Phone: (907) 465-2144
 Date/Time: 1/25/02 2:46 PM
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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

mwd

Representative Lisa Murkowski Chair
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HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

CSHB 343(L&C)

Letter of Intent

It is the intent of the House Labor and Commerce Committee that the operations and regulatory oversight responsibilities of the following professional licensing boards be combined into one board:

1. Board of Professional Counselors
2. Board of Marital and Family Therapy
3. Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners
4. Board of Social Work Examiners

To help ensure an effective transition, the four boards are to work cooperatively to develop an appropriate proposed statute for this new combined board.

Such a proposed statute should be designed to accomplish the intent of the committee to combine the operations of the boards while meeting the individual regulatory and oversight responsibilities of each current separate licensing board. If the boards involved would like to propose alternative combinations of how to combine the four boards, they are encouraged to also draft alternative proposed statutes.

Jointly, the chair of each board is to report on their progress in both January 2003 and 2004. Status reports should be sent to both the chair of this committee and the Legislative Auditor. The proposed legislation to accomplish combination of the boards should be completed by March 2004 so that it may be part of the sunset review process for the boards currently due to terminate by law on June 30, 2005.

The Legislative Audit Division is directed to consider and review the draft legislation as part of the sunset review conducted for each the boards involved. The merits and deficiencies of combining alternatives of the licensing boards should be discussed in the sunset audit report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski".

Representative Murkowski
Chair,
House Labor and Commerce Committee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Halcro".

Representative Halcro
Vice-Chair,
House Labor and Commerce Committee

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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