

**SB**

**273**

# Alaska State Legislature

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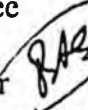
Session:  
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## Memorandum

February 7, 2002

To: Senator Robin Taylor, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Senator Ben Stevens, Chair   
Labor and Commerce Committee

Subject: Request for hearing SB 273

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Please schedule a hearing for Senate Bill 273, an act extending the termination date of the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar association, at your earliest convenience.

SB 273 will extend the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association for another four years to June 30, 2006. The Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association is set to expire June 30, 2002 under AS.03.101, Termination of State Boards and Commissions. If the legislature does not act to extend the Board it would have one year, until June 30, 2003, to administratively conclude its affairs.

Request for Hearing

# Sponsor Statement

## SB 273 – Extend Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association

The practice of law in the State of Alaska is regulated by the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association. The Alaska Bar association was established in 1955 to ensure that only qualified members of the legal profession of good moral character are allowed to practice law in this state.

The Board consists of twelve members, including nine attorneys elected by the active membership of the Alaska Bar Association and three non-attorney public members that are appointed by the governor and confirmed by a joint session of the legislature.

The Alaska Bar Association is scheduled to terminate June 30, 2002 under AS 08.03.010, Termination of State Boards and Commissions. If the legislature does not act the board would have one year, until June 30, 2003 to administratively conclude its operations.

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes, Legislative Budget and Audit conducted a sunset review of the Alaska Bar Association. It is the opinion of Legislative Budget and Audit that the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association, through the Supreme Court, protects the public by ensuring that persons licensed to practice law are qualified. It also provides for the investigation of complaints and has established a disciplinary process designed to ensure licensed individuals act in a competent and professional manner. Legislative Budget and Audit recommends that the termination of the Alaska Bar Association be extended four years to June 30, 2006.