

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SHES 1245

7. *Once a donor is identified, how does DHSS decide who gets to be a beneficiary?*

DHSS is assigned the task of establishing a process to identify children with the highest priority. The two most important factors, according to DHSS, are age and the consideration of "aging out" of the system, and length of time in state care.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Establishing Education Savings Accounts for Foster Children in Alaska

Children in the foster care system face significant challenges when they age out of state care. Often, these children do not have a plan or the means to access job training or post-secondary education. With a program in place whereby concerned organizations and citizens can establish savings accounts in the names of foster children, these children will have opportunities beyond high school.

Alaska's foster children deserve a program that invests in their potential. Alaska should create a program designed to give children in foster care the opportunity to pursue education and job training past the age of 18.

Please add my name/organization to the list of supporters.

Name Yvonne Chase
Organization Devali Family Services
Title President/CEO
Signature Yvonne Chase
Address 1675 C Street Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-222-2322 Fax 907-222-2398
Email ychase@devalis.org Website devalis.org

I/We would also be willing to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publish an article in our newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobilize our membership |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participate in media events | <input type="checkbox"/> Help to build a coalition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contact legislators | |

Please return this form to:
Office of Senator Johnny Ellis
State Capitol, Rm. 9
Juneau, AK 99801

JH

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: SB076-DHSS-FMS-03-01-07
 Bill Version: SB 76
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU: Departmental Support Services
 Component: Off Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
 Title: TUITION FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN

Sponsor: ELLIS
 Requester: SENATE (HES) Component No. 2849

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4
Travel						
Contractual	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: _____
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 SB 76 creates a higher education savings program for eligible children who have been placed in out-of-home care by the Department of Health and Social Services.
 The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is responsible for administration of the ASPIRE (Alaska Youth Succeed When People Invest Resources in Education) program to encourage investment in the higher education of eligible children in the state.

(cont. on page 2)

Prepared by: Stephanie Wheeler, Executive Director Phone 269-8016
 Division: Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives Date/Time 03/22/2007
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner Date 03/01/2007
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION
(cont. from page 1)

The office estimates that it will take 25% of the time of an existing program coordinator (Range 18) located in Juneau or Anchorage to administer the program. The position will be responsible for management of the broader Alaska Partnership for Healthy Communities (APHC) initiative designed to improve collaboration among government agencies and communities through projects that promote integrated services for Alaskans. The ASPIRE program fits well with the position's broader responsibilities.

Contractual funds in the amount of \$20.0 per year are requested to create and print brochures and to support a very modest television and radio promotional effort to publicize ASPIRE.

SB

81

Good afternoon, Madame chair, members of the committee for the record my name is Richard Benavides, staff to senator Davis, sponsor of SB 81.

Senate Bill 81 extends the sunset date of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives until June 30, 2015.

This is inline with the recommendations of Legislative Audit which you each have a copy of.

This is a very professional board, many of whose members our office has had the pleasure of interacting with on many occasions.

I would ask for your support in passage of this bill.

We have Legislative Audit and others to testify in support of this bill.

Thank you.

House H&SS Committee Testimony for SB 81

My name is Kaye Kanne. I am a Certified Direct-Entry Midwife and Executive Director of the Juneau Family Birth Center. Thank you for this opportunity to testify to your committee. I am asking for your support on HB 81, a bill to extend the Certified Direct-Entry Licensing Board to 2015. I sat on the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives from its inception in 1992 until I had completed two terms and resigned in 2000. I worked hard with this legislature to create the CDM Board in 1992. Alaska has excellent midwifery standards thanks to the past efforts of our legislators.

The Board has done an excellent job of writing and implementing regulations for the governing of Certified Direct-Entry midwives in Alaska. The Board continues to strive for the highest standards for CDM's and as a result, midwives in Alaska are professional, well trained and provide safe, excellent care for women and families. Training standards are high, with Certified Direct-Entry Midwife students required to attend twice as many births to achieve licensing as a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Alaska has one of the best midwifery laws in the United States. Many other states have looked to us as an example when passing midwifery legislation. Alaska is at the forefront of Direct-Entry Midwifery licensing. Midwives serve healthy, low-risk women. Alaska is a young state with a very large birthing population. We serve approximately 10% of all the births in Alaska, and the numbers are growing. Let's continue the excellent work we have been doing by continuing the Certified Direct-Entry licensing Board until 2015.

I am available for questions. Thank you for your continued support of midwifery issues, families, and children in Alaska.

Kaye Kanne, CDM
Executive Director
Juneau Family Birth Center
3225 Hospital Drive #106
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-586-1203

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Senator Bettye Davis

SB 81 "An Act extending the termination date for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 81 extends the sunset date of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives until June 30, 2015, in accordance with the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor. The legislative auditor has concluded the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meets the statutory requirements of public need and is in compliance with AS 08.01.065(c), which requires occupational licensing fees to cover the regulatory costs of that occupation.

The board has served as a means to make people practicing Midwifery aware of the level of experience and education expected of them. It consists of five members appointed by the Governor: one public member, two certified direct-entry midwives (CDMs), one certified nurse midwife, and one physician licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board who is either an obstetrician or who has specialized obstetric training.

Their duties include examining and certifying applicants, permitting apprentices, holding hearings and ordering disciplinary sanctions. They maintain all educational records; approve curricula, training, and programs for direct entry midwives and apprentices. They have worked proactively to ensure that public safety has been maintained while improving the profession of Midwives. They have successfully incorporated Certified Professional Midwife standards into Alaska's Certified Direct-Entry Midwives licensing program and worked with the State to establish Medicaid procedures for CDM services, thereby placing Alaska among eight states which both license their traditional midwives and provide Medicaid reimbursement for their services. They continue to work to create and revise regulations that ensure proper training and increase educational requirements.

. Women seeking an alternative to hospital care for normal pregnancy and birth rely on the diligence of the board to enhance both the quality and accessibility of their healthcare. We urge your support on passage of this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: SB81-COM-OL-02-15-07
 Bill Version: SB 81
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
 Title Extend Board of Midwives RDU Corp. Bus & Prof Licensing (117)
 Component Corp. Bus & Prof Licensing
 Sponsor Davis
 Requester Senate HES Component No. 2360

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services		12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9
Travel		2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Contractual		4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Supplies		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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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		20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2
TOTAL	0.0	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 20.2
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SB 81 extends the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives to June 30, 2015. In accordance with AS 08.03.020, funding is extended one year following the termination date allowing the Board to conclude its affairs. FY 2008 funding is included in the Operating Budget request. The costs shown for subsequent fiscal years reflect the direct costs included in the FY 2008 budget.

The program is required to cover its costs with licensing fees under AS 08.01.065, and revenue generated by board fees are anticipated to cover its full operating costs. New funds are not required to implement this bill.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Manager Phone (907) 465-2572
 Division Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing Date/Time 2/15/07 6:35 PM
 Approved by: Emil Notti, Commissioner Date 2/15/2007
 Agency Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/12/07

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/15/07
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: 2/21/07

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 81

SB 81 EXTEND BOARD OF MIDWIVES

"An Act extending the termination date for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____


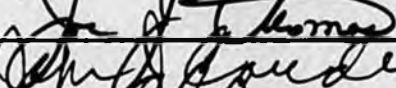
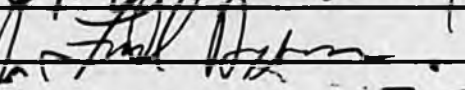
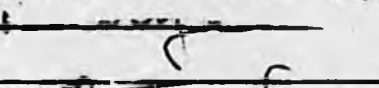

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indel.	Zero	FN#
CEO	2/15/07	✓			

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indel.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	PRINTED NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Courtney			✓	
	Dyson	✓			
CHAIR: 	Davis	✓			

ALABAMA

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Division of Legislative Services

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Division of Legislative Audit



P.O. Box 113300
Juneau, AK 9811-3300
(907) 465-3830
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legaudit@legis.state.ak.us

September 15, 2006

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 and Title 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), the attached report is submitted for your review.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES
September 11, 2006

Audit Control Number

08-20044-06

This audit was conducted as required by AS 44.66.050 and under the authority of AS 24.20.271(1). Alaska Statute 44.66.050(c) lists criteria to be used to assess the demonstrated public need for a given board, commission, or program subject to the sunset review process. Currently under AS 08.03.010(c)(8), the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2007. The board would be allowed one year in which to conclude its administrative operations.

In our opinion, the termination date for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives should be extended. We recommend that the legislature extend the termination date of the board to June 30, 2015.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government audit standards. Fieldwork procedures utilized in the course of developing report conclusion and the analysis presented in this report are discussed in the Objectives, Scope, and Methodology.

Handwritten signature of Pat Davidson in black ink.

Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor

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OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the intent of Title 24 and Title 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (board). Under AS 44.66.050(a), the legislative committee of reference is to consider this report during the legislative oversight process to determine whether the board should be reestablished. Currently, AS 08.03.010(c)(8) requires the board to terminate on June 30, 2007. If the legislature takes no action to extend the termination date, the board will have one year from that date to conclude its operations.

Objectives

Central, interrelated objectives of our report are:

1. To determine if the termination date of the board should be extended.
2. To determine if the board is operating in the public interest.
3. To determine if the board has exercised appropriate regulatory oversight of licensed midwives and apprentice midwives.

The assessment of the operations and performance of the board was based on 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

Under the direction and supervision of the Division of Legislative Audit, another auditor conducted the majority of this review. We followed professional standards to determine that the other auditor was independent and that their work was competent and sufficient.

The major areas of our review were board proceedings, licensing, and complaint investigation and resolution functions for fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. During the course of our examination we reviewed and evaluated the following:

- Applicable statutes and regulations.
- Compliance with statutes and regulation related to the licensing of midwives and apprentice midwives. Our evaluation addressed consideration of applications, testing of candidates, and continuing education necessary for an individual to maintain their license in good standing.

- Minutes of board meetings, budget documents, and annual reports related to, or issued by, the board.
- Files related to applicants for, and holders of, licenses issued by the board.
- Complaints filed with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Professional and Business Licensing (division).
- Interviews with employees of the division.
- Reading and correspondence files maintained with the division.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (board) was established in 1992. The purpose of the board is to protect the health and safety of the public by identifying individuals who are willing to pursue technical training and meet specified technical qualifications necessary for licensure as midwives.

The board establishes educational, experience, and continuing education requirements for licensed midwives. These requirements are intended to provide assurance that licensed individuals provide a minimum standard of care. State law does allow for midwife services to be provided by unlicensed individuals. As stated in AS 08.65.150, the differentiation is that those not certified under state law "may not practice midwifery for compensation."

The current board is composed of five members: two certified direct-entry midwives, one certified nurse midwife, one physician licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board who has an obstetrical practice or has specialized training in obstetrics, and one public member.

Board members are appointed by the governor to serve four-year terms. The board is responsible for appointing a chair and secretary from among its members. Alaska Statute requires that the public member of the board have no direct financial interest nor be engaged in the occupation the board regulates (midwifery).

**Board of Certified
Direct-Entry Midwives
(As of June 30, 2006)**

Dana L. Brown, CDM, CPM, Chair

Barbara Norton, Certified Nurse Midwife

Mark E. Richey, MD

Holly M. Steiner, R.N., CDM

**Mila (Melinda) A. Cosgrove
Public Member**

Board Duties and Powers

Alaska Statute 08.65.030 establishes the powers of the board. They include:

1. Examine applicants and issue certificates to qualified applicants.
2. Adopt regulations establishing certification and certificate renewal requirements.
3. Issue permits to apprentice direct-entry midwives.

4. Hold hearings and order the disciplinary sanction of a person who violates statutes or regulations governing direct-entry midwives.
5. Supply forms for applications, licenses, permits, certificates, and other papers and records.
6. Enforce statutes relating to midwifery and adopt regulations necessary to carry out statutory provisions.
7. Approve curricula and adopt standards for basic education, training, and apprentice programs.
8. Provide for surveys of the basic direct-entry midwife education programs in the state at the times it considers necessary.
9. Approve education, training, and apprentice programs that meet the requirements of this chapter and of the board, and deny, revoke, or suspend approval of such programs for failure to meet the requirements.

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (division)

The division provides administrative and investigative assistance to the board. Administrative assistance includes budgetary services and functions such as collecting fees, maintaining files, receiving and issuing application forms, and publishing notices of examinations and meetings.

Alaska Statute 08.01.065 mandates that DCCED adopt regulations to establish the amount and manner of payment of fees for applications, examinations, licenses, registration, permits, investigations, and all other fees as appropriate for the occupations covered by the statute.

Alaska Statute 08.01.087 empowers the division with the authority to conduct an investigation on its own initiative or in response to a complaint.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS**S**

In our opinion, the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (board) is operating in the public's best interest and should continue to regulate midwives. The board is safeguarding public interest by promoting the competence and integrity of those who hold themselves out to the public as qualified and competent direct-entry midwives.

The board serves a public purpose and has demonstrated an ability to conduct its business in a satisfactory manner. The board continues to propose regulation changes that will improve its effectiveness and ensure that midwives and apprentice midwives are licensed in the State of Alaska.

Alaska Statute 08.03.010(c)(8) requires that the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives be terminated on June 30, 2007. Under AS 08.03.020, the board has a one-year period to administratively conclude its affairs. We recommend that the legislature extend the board's termination date until June 30, 2015.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

In our opinion the Board of Equalized Taxes and Assessments (Board) is operating in the public's best interest and should continue to regulate industry. The Board is responsible for the success of promoting the industry and interests of those who hold the investment of the public in qualified and competent firms, every industry.

The Board serves a public purpose and has demonstrated its ability to exercise its powers in a judicious manner. The Board continues to progress regulation although that will improve its effectiveness and ensure that industry and citizens understand the Board's role in the state of Alaska.

(Intentionally left blank)

ALASKA STATUTE 08.07.0100 (1997) revised August 1997. The Board has a one-year term to expiration on June 30, 2007. Under AS 08.07.020, the Board has a one-year term to expiration. We recommend that the legislature extend the Board's term to June 30, 2012.

A ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED D

The following analyses of Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (board) activities relate to the public-need factors defined in the sunset review law at AS 44.66.050(c). These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or program has operated in the public interest.

The board, through its administration of the licensure of midwives and apprentice direct-entry midwives, has endeavored to present competent professionals to the public. To promote continued competence, all licensees must provide proof of continuing education for license renewal and are subject to a full continuing education audit.

The board has issued licenses in a uniform manner, held required meetings, and administered examinations in accordance with statutory requirements.

The board adopted or revised regulations regarding professional licensure and educational requirements. Applicants must show that they have completed the required Midwifery Education Accreditation Council courses of study in midwifery and pharmacology, and have completed their required supervised clinical experience. The board also accepts Midwives Association of Alaska courses and other curricula reviewed by the board. Applicants for certification by examination must pass an examination given by the North American Registry of Midwives, an independent examiner. Applicants for certification by credentials must prove that they were previously licensed in another state and all current required courses of study are up-to-date. All applications are thoroughly reviewed by the board at each meeting.

Throughout the audit period, the board worked to develop regulations that would benefit the public. A self-study course related to state regulations was developed for CPE hours. The board successfully incorporated Certified Professional Midwife standards into Alaska's Certified Direct-Entry Midwives licensing program.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency has recommended statutory changes that are generally of benefit to the public interest.

During the period under review, the board supported passage of Chapter 118, SLA 2004, revised by Chapter 57, SLA 2005 which requires the licensure of midwifery birth centers in a more standardized manner.

During the period under review, the board implemented regulatory changes to benefit the public interest. These changes included:

- Requirement that the applicant hold a current certification in Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers and Neonatal Resuscitation (12 AAC 14.110(b)(5)).
- Including regulations requiring certification in the use of intravenous (IV) therapy for the administration of allowable medicines and IV Therapy for Group B Streptococci;¹ two new developments in the profession (12 AAC 14.110(b)(5)).

Determine the extent to which the operation of the board, commission, or agency program has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices that it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

General licensing statutes require that the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development adopt regulations that establish the amount of fees to be charged to licensees of an occupation. The department must adopt fees that provide for financial self-sufficiency. Additionally, the department must perform an annual review to determine whether the financial self-sufficiency requirement has been met.

A significant issue for this board has been the amount of licensing fees charged to license holders. Currently, Certified Direct-Entry Midwives pay a biennial licensing fee of \$2,088. This amount is an increase from \$1,350 paid in the previous two-year licensing period. These fees are set by the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing. The general licensing statutes at AS 08.01.065(c) require *"that the total amount of fees collected for an occupation approximately equals the actual regulatory costs for the occupation."*

The board sets fees based on a two-year cycle, with the majority of the revenue collected in odd-numbered fiscal years. Based upon the financial data presented in Exhibit 1 on the next page licensing fees appear appropriately set at this time.

From Exhibit 1, it is evident contractual expenditures were high in both FY 03 and FY 04. This was the result of legal fees related to a license revocation case. Fiscal prudence by the board is demonstrated by the decrease in personal services and travel expenditures over the four year period. During the same time revenues rose slightly as a result of increased license fees in response to the litigation charges incurred in FY 03 and FY 04. The board had licensing fees set sufficient to cover their annual operating costs; however, the financial impact of litigation charges continue for multiple periods as seen in Exhibit 1.

¹ Group B streptococcus (group B strep) is a type of bacteria that causes illness in newborn babies, pregnant women, the elderly, and adults with certain illnesses. Group B strep is the most common cause of life-threatening infections in newborns.

Exhibit 1

**Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
 Schedule of License Revenues and Board Expenditures
 FY03 - FY 06
 (Unaudited)**

	FY 06	FY 05	FY 04	FY 03
Revenue	\$ 8,271	\$ 51,087	\$ 15,055	\$33,120
Direct Expenses				
Personal Services	12,105	12,099	18,958	19,750
Travel	1,767	2,960	2,951	7,825
Contractual	3,923	2,302	28,537	18,224
Supplies	71	0	47	109
Equipment	0	0	0	0
	<u>17,866</u>	<u>17,361</u>	<u>50,493</u>	<u>45,908</u>
Indirect Expense	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 19,666</u>	<u>\$ 19,161</u>	<u>\$ 51,893</u>	<u>\$47,208</u>
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(11,395)</u>	<u>32,026</u>	<u>(36,838)</u>	<u>(14,088)</u>
Beginning Cumulative Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(13,000)</u>	<u>(45,026)</u>	<u>(8,188)</u>	<u>5,900</u>
Ending Cumulative Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$(24,395)</u>	<u>\$(13,000)</u>	<u>\$(45,026)</u>	<u>\$(8,188)</u>

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives has discussed with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing a proposal to set up a fund to cover legal costs for all professional organizations. Such a fund would be supported by an annual fee from each licensee. The board feels that this would help alleviate the financial burden of investigative and legal costs for smaller occupational boards. At this time, no such fund has been created.

Looking prospectively, the board will likely eliminate the cumulative deficit if annual expenditures, licensing fees, and the number of licensees remain relatively constant over the next biennial licensing period. Given this scenario, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing should maintain the current license fee for the next licensing period. Following that period, the division should reevaluate the need for a fee change to ensure occupational fees are set to avoid an operational surplus or deficit.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of service, economy of service, and availability of service that it has provided.

The locations, dates, and times of upcoming board meetings and proposed changes in regulations were published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, as well as posted on the board's website. Adequate time was provided for interested individuals to plan to attend or to submit written comment for review.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions.

Public notices of proposed regulations are published in the *Anchorage Daily News* and the Alaska Online Public Notice System. The board meeting minutes show that unlimited time was allotted for the scheduled public comment period. All proposed regulation changes are subject to the public participation process.

Determine the efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board, commission, or agency filed with it, with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned, or with the office of victims' rights or the office of the ombudsman have been processed and resolved.

For the period July 2002 through June 2006, the division opened nine investigative cases related to six different individuals licensed by the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

The types of complaints filed included:

- Incompetence (5)
- Negligence (2)
- Unlicensed practice (1)
- Other (1)

Approximately 67% of the cases were filed by a Peer Review Committee member, the remaining were filed by another government agency (22%) and patients (11%).

Seven, or 78%, of the cases closed in a reasonable period of time. Only one case (11%) remained open for a period greater than 120 days. That case complaint related to an unlicensed practice, the case was closed due to insufficient evidence. We found it reasonable that one case remained open at June 30, 2006 given that the case opened less than two months prior to that date.

We have reviewed the nature and extent of the complaints filed involving midwives. The division, in conjunction with the board, took appropriate investigative action, prioritized

complaints in a reasonable manner, and proceeded in a manner consistent with the potential threat the complaints posed to the public welfare.

No complaints or investigations specifically involving the actions and activities of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives were received, or undertaken by, either the Office of the Ombudsman or the Office of Victims' Rights within the past four fiscal years.

Determine the extent to which a board or commission that regulates entry into an occupation or profession has presented qualified applicants to serve the public.

The application process for licensing appears reasonable and appropriate. The licensing process is neither unduly restrictive nor too lax. Continuing education is required and adequately monitored by the board to promote a high level of quality performance and to help ensure the integrity of the profession.

Each applicant is required to satisfy the requirements for licensing. Board meeting minutes reflect that the board considers each application and verifies the licensing requirements are satisfied prior to issuing a license.

Exhibit 2

New Licenses and Permits Issued (exclusive of renewals)	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Current Licenses (as of June 30, 2006)
Midwives	2	6	4	2	28
Apprentices	4	0	5	3	8
Total licenses at end of year	31	35	32	36	

Exhibit 2 is a summary of new licenses and permits issued by the board for FY 03 through FY 06.

Determine the extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board, commission, or agency to its own activities and the area of activity or interest.

We did not find any evidence that the board was not complying with the state personnel practices, including affirmative action, in qualifying applicants.

Determine the extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting, or other changes are necessary to enable the agency, board, or commission to better serve the interests of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.

Since inception of the board in 1992, biennial licensing fees for this occupation have ranged from an initial fee of \$350 to the current fee of \$2,088. During this audit review period, the licensing fees increased 55% from \$1,350 to \$2,088 and are not expected to decrease for the

next licensing period.

Currently, the licensing fees established for this board are the highest of any other licensed profession.² The fees are high because of the limited number of licensed midwives and unpredictable legal and investigative costs.

High licensing fees may, to some individuals, represent a barrier of entry into a profession. In the case of direct-entry midwives, Exhibit 2 shows that the licensing fees have not stopped the growth in the number of individuals being licensed as midwives or entering into the apprenticeship program. However, as long as the fees remain high the board should monitor for any substantial negative impact the fees have on the number of direct-entry midwives practicing in Alaska.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency has effectively attained its objectives and purposes and the efficiency with which the board, commission, or agency has operated.

Broad objectives identified by the board included:

- Proposing regulation changes.
- Clarify the current rules and regulations to benefit the public.
- Increase professional and public awareness of direct-entry midwifery.
- Approve additional avenues for study to gain licensure.
- Approve new curriculums for continuing education.
- Work towards lowering license fees.

It appears that the board has effectively and efficiently obtained its objectives and purposes. In proposing regulatory changes, the board has worked to ensure the objective of the regulation is clearly defined. They have provided for consistent language throughout the Certified Direct-Entry Midwives regulations and have updated the regulations and statutes to reflect new changes in the professional environment. Evidence suggests the board establishes and meets its operational objectives annually.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency duplicates the activities of another governmental agency or the private sector.

The board does not duplicate any activities of other government agencies or private sector organizations. The board is solely responsible for drafting regulations to carry out the laws governing the practice of direct-entry midwifery. The board makes final licensing decisions and takes disciplinary action against people who violate the licensing laws. The board, along with the licensing examiner from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional

² For the biennial licensing period January 2005 through December 2006.

Licensing, are responsible for overseeing all the regulations, codes of conduct, continuing education requirements, and investigating complaints related to the midwifery profession.

(mirrored bleed-through)

...the responsibility for assessing all the regulations, codes of conduct, continuing education requirements, and resolving complaints related to the industry profession.

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DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Commissioner

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
William C. Noll, Commissioner

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2006

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

September 29, 2006

Ms. Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
Division of Legislative Audit
P.O. Box 113300
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3300

Dear Ms. Davidson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preliminary audit report for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

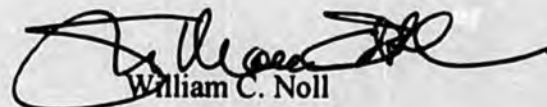
The department concurs with the audit findings. There are two items in the report that I would like to bring to your attention:

On page 8, the second to the last paragraph begins "The board sets fees..." should be corrected as identified in the previous paragraph, it is the "Department" who sets fees after consulting with the Board.

Additionally, on page 9, the first paragraph under Exhibit 1 discusses a proposal to set up a fund to cover legal costs. In FY05, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing did propose the idea of creating a Legal Defense Fund patterned after a similar fund in the State of Colorado. However, there was strong opposition to that proposal by OMB and by members of the Legislature. Such a fund could help to avoid large increases in licensing fees when litigation costs arise.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on your findings.

Sincerely,



William C. Noll
Commissioner

Department of Commerce
Community and Economic Development

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Office of the Commissioner



RECEIVED
OCT 12 2008
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Department of Commerce

Ms. Patricia Davidson, CMA
Legislative Auditor
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
Division of Legislative Affairs
P.O. Box 112300
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2300

(Intentionally left blank)

Dear Ms. Davidson:

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preliminary audit report for the Board of Capital Construction Services.

The document contains with the audit findings. There are two items in the report that I would like to bring to your attention.

The first item is the finding in the last paragraph of the report. The report says that "the Board is not in compliance with the provisions of the Alaska Statutes, AS 02.05.010, which require the Board to have a minimum of five members." The Board currently has four members.

Additional information is provided in the report under Exhibit 1. The report states that the Board is not in compliance with the provisions of the Alaska Statutes, AS 02.05.010, which require the Board to have a minimum of five members. The Board currently has four members.

The Board is currently in compliance with the provisions of the Alaska Statutes, AS 02.05.010, which require the Board to have a minimum of five members. The Board currently has four members.

I would appreciate your opportunity to comment on your findings.

Sincerely,


William C. Wolf
Commissioner

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2006

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



Alaska Family Health & Birth Clinic
728 Gaffney Road, Suite 100
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-3719

Alaska State Legislature
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
Division of Legislative Audit
P.O. Box 113300
Juneau, AK 99811-3300

October 26, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

This is written in response to the preliminary audit report concerning the Board of Certified Direct-entry Midwives. I concur with the recommendation that legislature extend the termination date of the board to June 30, 2015. My conclusions are the same as those in the audit report. In the Analysis of Public Need section on page 8, it implies that the board increased certification requirements for apprentice direct-entry supervisors. We tried to do this but were unable to change regulation because of wording in statute. Someday the Midwives Association of Alaska will need to go to legislature and try to get legislation passed to change wording in statute so that certain regs. can be addressed. I concur with the rest of the report. I am very pleased with the report.

Sincerely,

Dana Brown
CDM Board Chair

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Division of Legislative Audit



P.O. Box 113300
Juneau, AK 98111-3300
(907) 465-3830
FAX (907) 465-2347
legaudit@legis.state.ak.us

October 26, 2006

Members of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

We have reviewed the response to our preliminary audit from the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. The response points out that the board was unsuccessful in their attempt to effect regulatory changes to 12 AAC 14.210 to increase certification requirements for apprentice direct-entry supervisors due to statutory language (AS 08.65.090(b)). We agree that certification requirements for apprentice direct-entry supervisors did not increase during the audit period, and that section of the report has been corrected.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Davidson".

Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Division of Legislative Audit



1000 North Steeplechase
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907-586-2800
Fax: 907-586-2822
www.dla.alaska.gov

October 28, 2008

(Intentionally left blank)

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

We have reviewed the response to our preliminary audit from the Board of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) dated 10/22/08. The response points out that the board was instructed in their charter to review ASRC's financial statements for compliance with the provisions of ASRC's charter. The response also states that ASRC's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and that the board is not responsible for the accuracy of the financial statements. The response also states that the board is not responsible for the accuracy of the financial statements.

Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor

Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (May - Dec.)
716 W. 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0144
Fax: (907) 269-0148



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State Capitol, Suite 7
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Phone: (907) 465-3822
Fax: (907) 465-3756
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Senator Bettye Davis

SB 81 "An Act extending the termination date for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 81 extends the sunset date of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives until June 30, 2015, in accordance with the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor. The legislative auditor has concluded the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meets the statutory requirements of public need and is in compliance with AS 08.01.065(c), which requires occupational licensing fees to cover the regulatory costs of that occupation.

The board has served as a means to make people practicing Midwifery aware of the level of experience and education expected of them. It consists of five members appointed by the Governor: one public member, two certified direct-entry midwives (CDMs), one certified nurse midwife, and one physician licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board who is either an obstetrician or who has specialized obstetric training.

Their duties include examining and certifying applicants, permitting apprentices, holding hearings and ordering disciplinary sanctions. They maintain all educational records; approve curricula, training, and programs for direct entry midwives and apprentices. They have worked proactively to ensure that public safety has been maintained while improving the profession of Midwives. They have successfully incorporated Certified Professional Midwife standards into Alaska's Certified Direct-Entry Midwives licensing program and worked with the State to establish Medicaid procedures for CDM services, thereby placing Alaska among eight states which both license their traditional midwives and provide Medicaid reimbursement for their services. They continue to work to create and revise regulations that ensure proper training and increase educational requirements.

Women seeking an alternative to hospital care for normal pregnancy and birth rely on the diligence of the board to enhance both the quality and accessibility of their healthcare. We urge your support on passage of this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: SB81-COM-OL-02-15-07
 Bill Version: SB 81
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
 Title Extend Board of Midwives RDU Corp, Bus & Prof Licensing (117)
 Component Corp, Bus & Prof Licensing
 Sponsor Davis
 Requester Senate HES Component No. 2360

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services		12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9
Travel		2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Contractual		4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Supplies		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other 1158-Receipt Supported Services		20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2
TOTAL	0.0	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 20.2
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SB 81 extends the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives to June 30, 2015. In accordance with AS 08.03.020, funding is extended one year following the termination date allowing the Board to conclude its affairs. FY 2008 funding is included in the Operating Budget request. The costs shown for subsequent fiscal years reflect the direct costs included in the FY 2008 budget.

The program is required to cover its costs with licensing fees under AS 08.01.065, and revenue generated by board fees are anticipated to cover its full operating costs. New funds are not required to implement this bill.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Manager Phone (907) 465-2572
 Division Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing Date/Time 2/15/07 6:35 PM
 Approved by: Emil Notti, Commissioner Date 2/15/2007
 Agency Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

SB

85

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/19/07

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: 3/21/07

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 85

SB 85 EXTEND STATE MEDICAL BOARD

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

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____



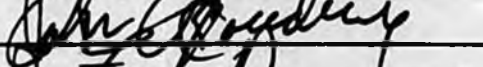
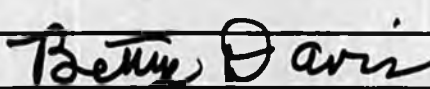
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
CEC	2/20	✓			

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Y/N	Do No Pass	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas Coedert	✓			
	Dysan	✓			
CHAIR: 	DAVIS	X			

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Senator Bettye Davis

SB 85 "An Act extending the termination date for the State Medical Board; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 85 extends the sunset date of the State Medical Board until June 30, 2013, in accordance with the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor. The legislative auditor has concluded that the State Medical Board meets the statutory requirements of public need and should continue to regulate the occupations under its purview.

The board consists of five licensed physicians, one licensed physician assistant, and two persons with no direct financial interests in the healthcare industry. The board serves the public interest by establishing the minimum education and work experience requirements that individuals must meet to become licensed physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, paramedics, and physician assistants. The board further serves the public interest by investigating complaints against licensed professionals and taking disciplinary licensing action when appropriate.

The board has consistently proven to be efficient, therefore I recommend that the State Medical Board be extended to June 30, 2013, and ask for your support in passage of this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: SB85-COM-OL-02-20-07
 Bill Version: SB 85
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
 Title: Extend State Medical Board RDU: Occupational Licensing (117)
 Component: Occupational Licensing
 Sponsor: Davis
 Requester: Senate HES Component No.: 2360

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services		493.7	493.7	493.7	493.7	493.7
Travel		32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4
Contractual		309.0	309.0	309.0	309.0	309.0
Supplies		11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	846.9	846.9	846.9	846.9	846.9

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1156 Receipt Supported Services		846.9	846.9	846.9	846.9	846.9
TOTAL	0.0	846.9	846.9	846.9	846.9	846.9

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 846.9
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation extends the State Medical Board to June 30, 2013. In accordance with AS 08.03.020, funding is extended one year following the termination date allowing the Board to conclude its affairs. FY 2008 funding is included in the Operating Budget request. The costs shown for subsequent fiscal years reflect the direct costs included in the FY 2008 budget.

The program is required to cover its costs with licensing fees under AS 08.01.065, and revenue generated by board fees is anticipated to cover the full operating costs. New funds are not required to implement this bill.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Manager Phone (907) 465-2572
 Division: Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing Date/Time 2/20/07 2:37 PM
 Approved by: Emil Notti, Commissioner Date 2/20/2007
 Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STATE MEDICAL BOARD
SUNSET REVIEW**

October 3, 2006

Audit Control Number

06-2006-06

Division of Legislative Audit

P.O. Box 113300, Juneau, Alaska 99811-3300

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee is a permanent interim committee of the Alaska Legislature. The committee is made up of five senators and five representatives, with one alternate from the Senate and two from the House. The chairmanship of the committee alternates between the two chambers every legislature.

The committee is responsible for providing the legislature with audits of state government agencies. The programs and activities of state government now cost more than \$1 billion a year. As legislators and administrators try increasingly to allocate state revenues effectively and make government work more efficiently, they need information to evaluate the work of governmental agencies. The audit work performed by the Division of Legislative Audit helps provide that information.

As a guide to all their work, the Division of Legislative Audit complies with generally accepted auditing standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and with government auditing standards established by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Audits are performed as mandated by Alaska Statutes or at the direction of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee. Individual legislators or committees can submit requests for audits of specific programs or agencies to the committee for consideration. Copies of all completed audits are available from the Division of Legislative Audit's offices in Juneau, Anchorage, or at our web site <http://www.lgaudit.state.ak.us/>

BUDGET AND AUDIT

Senator Gene Thompson
Senator Lynn Sweet
Senator James W. ...
Senator ...
Senator ...

Representative ...
Representative ...
Representative ...
Representative ...
Representative ...
Representative ...

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Fa Dewiese, CPA
Legislative Auditor

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Juneau, AK 99811-3308

(907)465-3639, Juneau
(907)561-1448, Anchorage
(907)465-1247, Juneau
(907)561-1442, Anchorage



Division of Legislative Audit
P.O. Box 118308 Juneau, Alaska 99811-3308

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Division of Legislative Audit



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legaudit@legis.state.ak.us

November 3, 2006

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 and Title 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), the attached report is submitted for your review.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STATE MEDICAL BOARD
SUNSET REVIEW

October 3, 2006

Audit Control Number

08-20046-06

This audit was conducted as required by AS 44.66.050 and under the authority of AS 24.20.271(1). Alaska Statute 44.66.050(c) lists criteria to be used to assess the demonstrated public need for a given board, commission, or program subject to the sunset review process. Currently under AS 08.03.010(c)(12), the State Medical Board is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2007. The board would be allowed one year in which to conclude its administrative operations.

In our opinion, the termination date for the State Medical Board should be extended. We recommend that the legislature extend the termination date of the board to June 30, 2013.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government audit standards. Fieldwork procedures utilized in the course of developing report conclusion and the analysis presented in this report are discussed in the Objectives, Scope, and Methodology.

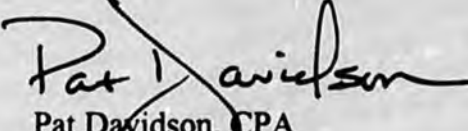

Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor

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OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the intent of Title 24 and Title 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the State Medical Board (board). Under AS 44.66.050(a), the legislative committee of reference is to consider this report during the legislative oversight process to determine whether the board should be reestablished. Currently, AS 08.03.010(c)(12) requires the board to terminate on June 30, 2007. If the legislature takes no action to extend the termination date, the board will have one year from that date to conclude its operations.

Objectives

Central, interrelated objectives of our report are:

1. To determine if the termination date of the board should be extended.
2. To determine if the board is operating in the public interest.
3. To determine if the board has exercised appropriate regulatory oversight of physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, paramedics and physician assistants.

The assessment of the operations and performance of the board was based on 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

Under the direction and supervision of the Division of Legislative Audit, another auditor conducted the majority of this review. We followed professional standards to determine that the other auditor was independent and that their work was competent and sufficient.

The major areas of our review were board proceedings, licensing, and complaint investigation and resolution functions for fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. During the course of our examination we reviewed and evaluated the following:

- Applicable statutes and regulations.
- Compliance with statutes and regulation related to the licensing of physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, paramedics, and physician assistants.
- Minutes of board meetings, budget documents, and annual reports related to or issued by the board.

- Files related to applicants for, and holders of, licenses issued by the board.
- Complaints filed with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Professional and Business Licensing (division)
- Interviews with employees of the division.
- Reading and correspondence files maintained with the division.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

Alaska Statute 08.64.010 establishes the State Medical Board (board). The board consists of five licensed physicians "*residing in as many separate geographical areas of the state as possible*," a licensed physician assistant, and two public members who are to have "*no direct financial interest in the health care industry*."

The board regulates the following groups of professionals engaged in medical practice in Alaska: physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, paramedics, and physician assistants.

Most licensing requirements are established by statute. However, for unique circumstances, the statutes permit the board to waive some requirements and replace them with special conditions, imposed by the board, for issuing special licenses.

These special licenses include those issued by endorsement, and those permitting temporary practice for up to six months, or until the board meets to consider the application, whichever comes first.

The board also issues a temporary *locum tenens* permit which is valid for 120 consecutive days, but not more than 240 days in any two-year period.

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (division)

State Medical Board (As of June 30, 2006)

David M. Head, MD, Chair
Robert A. Breffeilh, MD
John T. Duddy, MD
G. Bert Flaming, MD
Edward A. Hall, Physician Assistant
Nancy Puckett, Public Member
Michael J. Tauriainen, Public Member
Kevin M. Tomera, MD

The division provides administrative and investigative assistance to the State Medical Board. Administrative assistance includes budgetary services and functions such as collecting fees, maintaining files, receiving and issuing application forms, and publishing notices of examinations and meetings.

Alaska Statute 08.01.065 mandates that DCCED, with the concurrence of the board, adopt regulations to establish the amount and manner of payment of fees for applications, examinations, licenses, registration, permits, investigations, and all other fees as appropriate for the occupations covered by the statute.

Alaska Statute 08.01.087 empowers the division with the authority to act on its own initiative, or in response to a complaint. The division may:

1. Conduct an investigation if it appears a person is engaged in, or is about to engage in, a prohibited professional practice.
2. Bring an action in superior court to enjoin the act.
3. Examine the books and records of an individual.
4. Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and records.



The division provides administrative and regulatory services to the public health system. Administrative services include regulatory services and training such as continuing education, licensing, and publishing notices of rulemaking and advisory committee meetings.

Alaska Statute 08.01.087 empowers the division with the authority to act on its own initiative, or in response to a complaint. The division may:

1. Conduct an investigation if it appears a person is engaged in, or is about to engage in, a prohibited professional practice.
2. Bring an action in superior court to enjoin the act.
3. Examine the books and records of an individual.
4. Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and records.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

In our opinion, the State Medical Board (board) is operating in the public's best interest and should continue to regulate occupations within the purview of the board.¹ The board is safeguarding the public interest by promoting the competence and integrity of those who hold themselves out to the public as qualified and competent medical professionals.

The board serves a public purpose and has demonstrated an ability to conduct its business in a satisfactory manner. The board continues to propose changes to regulations to improve its effectiveness and ensure that medical professionals are licensed in the State of Alaska.

As discussed more fully in the Analysis of Public Need section of this letter, investigations are open for significantly longer periods of time when compared to the prior audit. Several factors such as staff turnover among investigators and the establishment of a panel review process for standard-of-care cases have contributed to lengthier investigative periods. However, prompt investigations of complaints regarding medical professionals are essential to public health and welfare.

Alaska Statute 08.03.010(c)(12) requires the State Medical Board be terminated on June 30, 2007. Under AS 08.03.020, the board has a one-year period to administratively conclude its affairs. We recommend that the legislature extend the board's termination date by six years, until June 30, 2013.

¹ Occupations regulated by the State Medical Board include physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, paramedics, and physician assistants.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

In an opinion, the State Medical Board has not responded to the public's best interests and should continue to regulate occupations within the purview of the board. The board is also not acting in the public interest by performing the services and duties of those who are licensed to the public as medical professionals and occupational medical professionals.

The board acts as a public purpose and has demonstrated an ability to conduct its business in a manner that is in the public interest. The board continues to propose changes to improve its effectiveness and ensure that medical professionals are licensed in the state of Alaska.

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As discussed more fully in the Appendix, the board has not responded to the public's best interests and should continue to regulate occupations within the purview of the board. The board is also not acting in the public interest by performing the services and duties of those who are licensed to the public as medical professionals and occupational medical professionals. However, private investigations of complaints regarding medical professionals are essential to public health and safety.

Alaska State Medical Board (ASMB) reports the State Medical Board is composed of 10 members. ASMB is a public body and a quasi-judicial body. The board is not a public body and a quasi-judicial body. We recommend that the board's composition be changed to reflect the public's interests.

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation No. 1

The board should update regulatory language to reflect current license-by-examination practices.

Current license by examination practices are not in accordance with regulatory language. Regulation 12 AAC 40.020(a) reads "*[T]he written examination is administered twice yearly in Alaska ...*" However, candidates may sit for the computerized examination up to three times within a 12-month period. The State Medical Board has contracted with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) to administer the computerized examination. Candidates schedule testing directly with FSMB and may test at any time throughout the year at an approved testing center.

Due to other pressing matters, updating the regulatory language has not been a priority of the board. Outdated regulatory language is misleading to readers seeking information regarding licensing procedures in the State of Alaska. As such, 12 AAC 40.020(a) should be updated to reflect current examination practices.

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation No. 1

The Board should include regular members to assist in the management of the Board.

Current license by examination practices are not in accordance with regulatory impacts. The review committee is currently reviewing the process. However, candidates are in the computerized examination as to their status. The review committee has been contacted with the regulatory board. Candidates of the Medical Board (7/2/18) (Intentionally left blank) candidate being directly with FSMB and may not be in line through the year as an approved testing center.

Due to other pressing matters regarding the regulatory board, the review committee is currently reviewing the process. Candidates of the Medical Board (7/2/18) (Intentionally left blank) candidate being directly with FSMB and may not be in line through the year as an approved testing center.