



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Rules By Request of LEG BUDGET & AUDIT
Current Version: SB 254
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 254

Short Title: EXTEND PT & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD

Summary:

- Extends the termination date for the state Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board to June 30, 2014.

Benefits:

- Continues to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating and licensing physical therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapist assistants, and occupational therapy assistants.

Background:

- This legislation stems from recommendations contained in the Legislative Audit Report entitled "Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board," dated September 17, 2005. Legislative Audit concluded that the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board is operating in the public's best interest and should continue to regulate physical and occupational therapists. The board safeguards the public interest by promoting the competence and integrity of those who practice in this field, continues to improve its effectiveness, and ensures therapists are licensed in the State of Alaska. Accordingly, SB 254 extends the sunset date eight years, to June 30, 2014.

Sunset laws began to be adopted in states in the 1970s as part of a national movement to increase the accountability of government and reduce bureaucracy. In theory, the sunset process provides the routine re-determination of the need for some aspect of government – thereby making it more likely that the growth of government is productive and deliberate.