

# Sponsor Statement for SB 273

## Extend Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association

*An Act extending the termination date of the 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.