

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

**Board of Examiners in Optometry**

**Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2025



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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*This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).*

**Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
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**Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)***

**Date of Final Board Approval: 5/29/2025**

Members of the Board:

- Ethan Arndt, OD
- Sheryl Lentfer, OD
- Kathleen Rice, OD (interim Chair)
- Charles Rudstrom (public member)
- Pamela Steffes, OD

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**Accomplishments**

**During fiscal year 2025, the board:**

**Started Regulation Projects, see detail in Needs on page 4.**

- **Delegation of Duties in response to HB 309**
- **Updates/clarifications to several regulations**
- **Remove Pupillary Distance (PD) requirement**

**Updated Board Advisory #4**

- **To clarify the requirement for a non-topical therapeutic injections course for initial licensure by credentials.**

**Updated the required Jurisprudence Exam (Alaska State Law Exam) to include questions about the telehealth regulations.**

**One complaint and one investigation were initiated and all have been resolved and closed.**

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**Activities**

**During fiscal year 2025, 4 meetings were held by teleconference: September 5, 2024, October 9, 2024, November 13, 2024 and April 3, 2025.**

**The trust of the public and the protection of Alaskans is the primary mission of the board and that mission was represented as the focus of our meetings and ongoing regulatory projects. License applications were carefully reviewed throughout the year using OnBoard, Board Secure Board Portal Software. This platform with online voting allowed for expedient decisions when appropriate. Some applications required full board discussions which took place during our teleconferenced meetings. In addition the board reviewed continuing education health exemption requests.**

**The board proposed new draft regulations and regulation updates and planned future regulation projects.**

**An annual report prepared by Dr. Kathleen Rice was presented to the Alaska Optometric Association Annual CE Conference held May 1-4, 2025 by former Board Chair Dr. Damien Delzer. (No current board members were present.)**

**An annual report has been compiled and delivered to the Association of Regulatory Board of Optometry (ARBO).**

**During FY 25**

**[13] applications were received during the period**

**[8] licenses were issued**

**[7] awaiting applicant responses or submissions before consideration**

**[207] active Optometry licenses at the time of this report**

**[3] active restricted Optometry licenses at the time of this report**

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**Needs**

**Complete the following in process regulation projects.**

- **Delegation of Duties:** In response to HB 309, the board has drafted regulations that would allow Alaska licensed optometrists to delegate duties.
  
- **Updates/clarifications to the following regulations:**
  - 12 AAC 48.011(a)(3) – License by Examination**
  - 12 AAC 48.020(c)(1) – License by Credentials**
  - 12 AAC 48.200(a) and (b)(4) – License renewals and Continuing Education**
  - 12 AAC 48.210(a) – Hours of Continuing Education**
  - 12 AAC 48.220(a) – Hours of Continuing Educaiton**
  - 12 AAC 48.340 – restate affirmative**
  - 12 AAC 48.350(a) Use of Controlled Substances; Limitations**
  - 12 AAC 48.900(b)(2) and (c)(1) Reinstatement of a Lapsed License**
  
- **Pupillary Distance (PD):** Following a complaint about PD not being included on glasses prescriptions, the board reviewed and determined that opticians are adequately trained to take this measurement. A regulation change is in progress to reflect this.

**The board is awaiting the appointment of a new board member fill Dr. Steffes' seat as her term ended March 01, 2024 but is willing to continue on the board until a new member is appointed.**