



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

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July 10, 2018

Dear licensees and interested parties:

Alaska's professional licensing statutes (AS 08.01.065) require the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) to "annually review each fee level to determine whether the regulatory costs of each occupation are approximately equal to fee collections related to that occupation." Alaska's licensing fee statutes go on to say, "If the review indicates that an occupation's fee collections and regulatory costs are not approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee adjustments and adopt regulations...to implement the adjustments."

The Division proposes an increase in licensing fee amounts in order to comply with the statute listed above. The program has been in deficit since FY2010 and the deficit is anticipated to grow to (\$47,452) by the end of FY2023 if no fee changes are made. The fees were increased in FY2015 and in FY2017, however the increase was not sufficient to keep up with the rising expenses. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the proposed increase will stabilize the program for the foreseeable future and will prevent the need for an even larger increase later.

The Board of Examiners in Optometry reviewed the fee analysis at its June 11, 2018 meeting and unanimously agreed with the fee changes proposed by the board. The proposed fees amounts are enclosed and can also be found on the Board's web page at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofOptometry.aspx>.

This fee proposal is entering a public comment period. The division encourages all licensees and interested parties to comment on this proposal through the division's Regulations Specialist, whose contact information is enclosed on the public notice. After the comment period closes and the division reviews all comments received, the division may adopt the regulation as drafted, may amend a proposed fee, or may withdraw the regulations in part or in its whole.

All comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration prior to adopting the final regulations. The final decision will result in the fee to be implemented during the upcoming license renewal.

Follow the instructions enclosed to make written comments during the public comment period. Comments must be addressed to Sher Zinn, Regulations Specialist, PO Box 110806, Juneau, AK 99811 or regulationsandpubliccomment@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janey McCullough".

Janey McCullough
Director

Encl.

Chapter 02. General Occupational Licensing Functions.

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted.)

12 AAC 02.300 is amended to read:

12 AAC 02.300. Board of Examiners in Optometry. The following fees are established for optometrists:

- (1) nonrefundable application fee for initial license, **\$450** [\$300];
- (2) examination fee, **\$250** [\$100];
- (3) license fee for all or part of the initial biennial license period, **\$600** [\$480];
- (4) biennial license renewal fee, **\$600** [\$480];
- (5) retired status license fee, \$150;
- (6) temporary military courtesy license fee, \$240;
- (7) extension of temporary military courtesy license fee, \$240. (Eff. 11/20/86,

Register 100; am 10/1/88, Register 107; am 5/28/93, Register 126; am 10/29/94, Register 132; am 11/15/96, Register 140; am 11/27/98, Register 148; am 10/28/2000, Register 156; am 12/16/2001, Register 160; am 11/15/2002, Register 164; am 11/18/2006, Register 180; am 10/16/2011, Register 200; am 12/2/2012, Register 204; am 11/30/2014, Register 212; am 4/30/2015, Register 214; am 11/26/2016, Register 220; am ___/___/___, Register ___)

Authority: AS 08.01.063 AS 08.01.065 AS 08.72.191