



Representative Sam Kito

Alaska State Legislature

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Contact

Rep. Sam Kito
Alaska State Capitol 403
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99801

907-465-4766

Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement House Bill 274

EXTEND: BD OF PSYCHOLOGISTS/PSYCH ASSOC.

House Bill 274 extends the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners to June 30, 2026 in accordance with the recommendation of Legislative Audit.

The board was established to regulate the practice of psychology in Alaska and is composed of five members: three licensed psychologists, one licensed psychological associate, and one public member who does not have a financial interest in the health care industry. As of March 2017, the board regulated 285 licensees.

The board is responsible for establishing examination and education requirements for licensees and issuing licenses to qualified applications, establishing continuing education requirements for license renewal, establishing standards for the practice of psychology, imposing disciplinary sanctions, reviewing the quality and availability of psychological services in the state when requested by DCCED, and compiling information for submission to DCCED on the practice of psychology by licensees in the state.

The Division of Legislative Audit conducted a review of the board and determined that the board is serving the public's interest by effectively licensing and regulating psychologists and psychological associates. The board monitors licensees and works to ensure only qualified individuals practice in Alaska.

The board is currently scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2018 and will have one year to conclude its administrative operations unless the legislature extends the termination date. House Bill 274 reflects the recommendations of the Division of Legislative Audit, and extends the termination date for the Board till June 30, 2026.

Please support House Bill 274.