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Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Board of Optometry (Board) was established in 1915 and is mandated by Minnesota Statutes sections 148.52 – 148.62 and Minnesota Rules, chapter 6500 to protect the public through the regulation of optometrists in the state of Minnesota. Regulation is accomplished through initial licensure examination, annual license renewal and required continuing education requirements.

The mission of the Board is:

- ◆ to promote the public's interest in receiving quality optometric health care from competent optometrists;
- ◆ to protect the public by ensuring that all licensed optometrists meet the educational and practical requirements specified in law; and
- ◆ to protect the public by setting standards for quality optometric health care.

Core Functions

The Board fulfills its mission by:

- ◆ reviewing and approving examination standards to insure knowledge of applicants for licensure as optometrists;
- ◆ reviewing of continuing education required to maintain knowledge for the safe practice of optometry;
- ◆ managing complaints alleging violation of Board statutes and rules through initial committee review, thorough investigation and disciplinary conferences with licensees to determine whether legal action against an optometrist is warranted; and
- ◆ providing accurate information about licensure requirements, standards of practice and disciplinary process to the public, licensees and other interested parties.

Operations

- ◆ The board is comprised of seven individuals appointed by the Governor, of which five are licensed optometrists.
- ◆ The Board serves consumers, licensed optometrists, applicants for optometry licensure, other governmental agencies, third party payers and sponsors of continuing education courses. Services are delivered through direct communication (telephone, mail, email, and in-person).
- ◆ There are nineteen approved professional optometric degree programs in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Students seeking career information are provided assistance from the board.
- ◆ The Board's Education Committee reviews national standardized examinations required of applicants for licensure.

Key Goals

- ◆ Maintain excellence in optometry regulation.
- ◆ Increase use of online license renewal by licensees.
- ◆ Implement an online application service in 2009.

Key Measures

- ◆ Public protection – the Board's website offers several services to the public including viewing disciplinary orders, access to information on the complaint process and obtaining forms and information regarding how to file a complaint, and viewing individual licensee disciplinary history.
- ◆ Online services – the Board offers license verification, address and contact information changes, license renewals, and information for licensees.
- ◆ Licenses will be issued to applicants within two days of review by Board at each scheduled board meeting.

At A Glance

Minnesota Board of Optometry Statistics FY 2008 – 2009

Board members: Seven, including five optometrists and two public members, appointed by the Governor.

New licenses issued: 74
Total Licensed: 1,004

Complaints received: 7
Complaints resolved: 8

- ◆ New online service for licensure applications were added this biennium, with a goal of 25% of all applications completed online.
- ◆ Public information – the Board offers a public website, newsletters, presentations, public outreach, brochures, and real people answering the phone during business hours.

Budget

Total direct and indirect expenditures for FY 2008-09 are estimated to be \$265,000, which includes 1.0 FTE employees. Direct expenditures include salaries, rent and other operating expenditures. The Board receives a direct appropriation for these costs. Indirect expenditures include costs of services received by the Attorney General's Office, Health Professional Services Program, and the Administrative Services Unit. The Board is responsible for collecting sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures.

The Board is estimated to collect \$233,000 in FY 2008-09, which is deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. Revenue is collected from fees charged to applicants, licensees, and sponsors of continuing education programs.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Governor Recomm.		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
State Government Spec Revenue					
Current Appropriation	98	114	114	114	228
Recommended	98	114	101	101	202
Change		0	(13)	(13)	(26)
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-4.7%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	91	121	101	101	202
Open Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	1	5	5	5	10
Total	92	126	106	106	212
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	70	84	73	73	146
Other Operating Expenses	22	42	33	33	66
Total	92	126	106	106	212
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Optometry, Board Of	92	126	106	106	212
Total	92	126	106	106	212
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	

Dollars in Thousands

	FY2009	Governor's Recomm.		Biennium 2010-11
		FY2010	FY2011	
<i>Fund: STATE GOVERNMENT SPEC REVENUE</i>				
FY 2009 Appropriations	114	114	114	228
Technical Adjustments				
One-time Appropriations		(13)	(13)	(26)
Subtotal - Forecast Base	114	101	101	202
Total Governor's Recommendations	114	101	101	202
<i>Fund: STATE GOVERNMENT SPEC REVENUE</i>				
Planned Open Spending	5	5	5	10
Total Governor's Recommendations	5	5	5	10

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Governor's Recomm. FY2010 FY2011		Biennium 2010-11
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Departmental Earnings:					
State Government Spec Revenue	120	113	111	111	222
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	120	113	111	111	222
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Total Dedicated Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Total Revenue	120	113	111	111	222