

Table of Contents

Optometry, Board of

<i>Agency Profile</i>	1
Agency Expenditure Overview	4
Agency Financing by Fund	5
Agency Change Summary	6
<u>Change Item(s)</u>	7
<i>MN.IT Cost Reduction and Appropriation Transfer</i>	7

mn.gov/boards/optometry/

AT A GLANCE

Credentialing Services

- 1,180 renewed licenses
- 115 new licenses

Education Services

- 1,180 reviews of reported continuing education
- 118 audits of reported continuing education
- 176 continuing education program approvals

Complaint Resolution

- Investigated 69 complaints
- Formal action for 6 complaints

Source: Annual Board Report For two-year period ended 06/30/2020

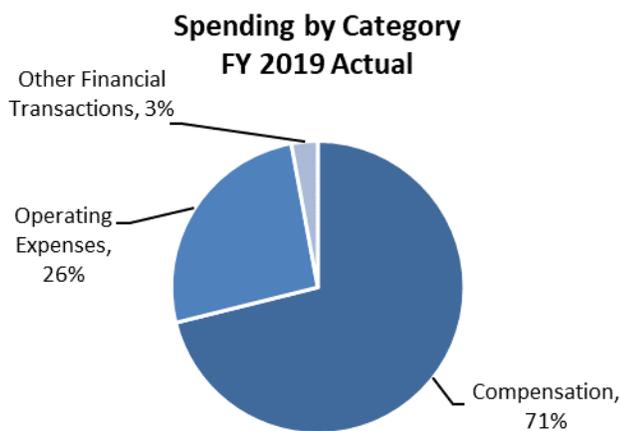
PURPOSE

The Minnesota Board of Optometry is responsible for protection of the public through the regulation of the Doctor of Optometry (OD’s) in the state of Minnesota. The Board was established in 1915 under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 148, and was the first optometry board in the nation. Regulation is accomplished through licensure examination, annual license renewal, continuing education requirements, as well as providing neutral investigations and resolution of complaints against licensees. Approximately 75% of Minnesotans use some type of vision correction with Optometrists serving as first point of contact for many Minnesotans.

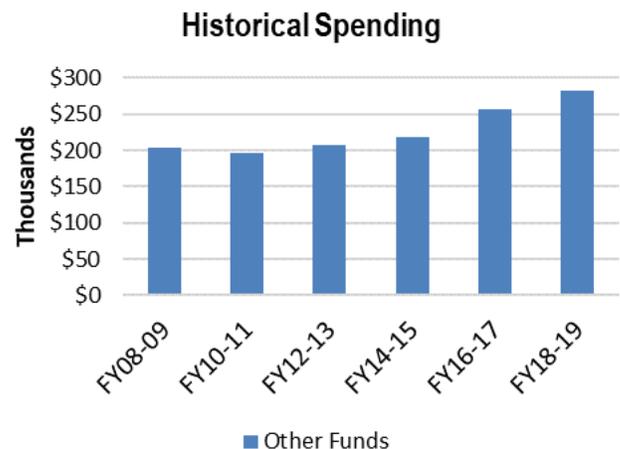
The Board’s mission is to:

- Protect the public through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of optometry
- Ensure a standard of competent and ethical care
- Provides timely and neutral resolution of complaints

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees and receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) requires the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient to cover direct and indirect expenditures. Funds are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency expenses such as salaries, rent, costs associated with disciplinary/contested cases, and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation.

In addition to Board operations, licensure fees fund activities that support multiple boards and/or other agencies. Some of these are: MNIT – technology, (inter-board) SMART, MMB-Administrative Operations support (inter-board), Health Professionals Services Program (inter-board), Prescription Monitoring Program (Pharmacy Board), Office of the Attorney General for legal services, and the Criminal Background Check Program (inter-board).

Board members communicate openly with licensees to ensure fees are used prudently. The national optometry board, the Association of Regulatory Boards for Optometry (ARBO) completes an annual survey of all fees charged to the nation’s OD’s for licensing activities. The Minnesota Board of Optometry renewal of license fees are in the lowest 25% percentile in the nation.

STRATEGIES

The Board of Optometry regulates the profession by:

- Setting educational standards for initial licensure.
- Reviewing applicant’s education and training to determine compliance with the board’s licensure requirements.
- Reasonably ensuring that only applicants who meet licensure requirements are granted a license.
- Issuing initial and renew licensure for qualified professionals.
- Setting continuing education requirements for maintenance of licensure.
- Setting standards of practice and taking disciplinary or corrective action against misconduct for licensees.
- Responding to public and agency inquiries, complaints, and reports regarding licensure and conduct of applicants and licensees and completing those reviews in a timely and neutral manner.
- Providing information about licensure requirements and standards of practice to citizens and other interested persons or agencies.

The board provides services to 1,180 licensed optometrists in Minnesota and collaborates with continuing education and provider associations. The current board chair is also the Chair of the national board, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry.

Quarterly board meetings are driven by seven governor-appointed board members with other stakeholders in attendance. Complaints are actively reviewed by an OD and one public member to assure the blending of both perspectives in seeking a timely and neutral review of the concerns presented. The board agenda reflects quality improvement activities with key statistics tracked and shared with the attendees. Board discussion leads to action steps and directives to staff which is listed in the minutes of each board meeting. Those minutes are posted on the website.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Percent of license renewals completed online	90%	100%	FY 2019 & FY 2020
Quality	Percent of initial applications completed online	83%	67%	FY 2019 & FY 2020
Quantity	Number of complaints received/closed without investigation within three months	39/6	69/50	FY 2019 & 2020

The statutory authority for the Minnesota Board of Optometry was updated in 2015 and is located in Chapter 148:
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes?id=148.52>
The rules were updated in July, 2018 and are located in MN Rules Chapter 6500.
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=6500>
Additional statutes pertaining to all health licensing boards are found in Chapters 13, 16, and 214.

Optometry, Board of

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY22	FY23	FY22	FY23

Expenditures by Fund

1201 - Health Related Boards	134	144	171	274	223	223	238	238
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total	135	146	173	276	225	225	240	240
Biennial Change				167		1		31
Biennial % Change				59		0		7
Governor's Change from Base								30
Governor's % Change from Base								7

Expenditures by Program

Optometry Board	135	146	173	276	225	225	240	240
Total	135	146	173	276	225	225	240	240

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	98	104	115	143	148	149	148	149
Operating Expenses	38	38	57	133	77	76	92	91
Other Financial Transaction		4	1					
Total	135	146	173	276	225	225	240	240

Full-Time Equivalents

	0.89	0.93	1.08	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY22	FY23	FY22	FY23
1201 - Health Related Boards								
Balance Forward In		40		51				
Direct Appropriation	174	176	227	223	223	223	238	238
Cancellations		72	5					
Balance Forward Out	40		51					
Expenditures	134	144	171	274	223	223	238	238
Biennial Change in Expenditures				167		1		31
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				60		0		7
Governor's Change from Base								30
Governor's % Change from Base								7
Full-Time Equivalents	0.89	0.93	1.08	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In		0	0					
Receipts	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Balance Forward Out	0	0	0					
Expenditures	2							
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				1		8		8
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	Biennium 2022-23
Direct				
Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards				
FY2021 Appropriations	223	223	223	446
Forecast Base	223	223	223	446
Change Items				
MN.IT Cost Reduction and Appropriation Transfer		15	15	30
Total Governor's Recommendations	223	238	238	476
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	2	2	2	4
Forecast Base	2	2	2	4
Total Governor's Recommendations	2	2	2	4
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Forecast Revenues	2	2	2	4
Total Governor's Recommendations	2	2	2	4
Non-Dedicated				
Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards				
Forecast Revenues	220	220	225	445
Total Governor's Recommendations	220	220	225	445

Board of Optometry

FY 2022-23 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: MN.IT Cost Reduction and Appropriation Transfer

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
ASU (Transfer from BELTSS to Dentistry)				
General Fund*				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	(647)	(647)	(647)	(647)
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Pharmacy, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	65	65	65	65
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Dentistry, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	40	40	40	40
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Chiropractic Examiners, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	25	25	25	25
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Optometry, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	15	15	15	15
Revenues	0	0	0	0
BELTSS				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	15	15	15	15
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Social Work, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	50	50	50	50
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Marriage and Family Therapy, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	22	22	22	22
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Podiatric Medicine, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	15	15	15	15
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Veterinary Medicine, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	10	10	10	10

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Dietetics and Nutrition Practice, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	15	15	15	15
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Physical Therapy, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	15	15	15	15
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Behavioral Health and Therapy, Board of				
State Government Special Revenue				
Expenditures	35	35	35	35
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	(325)	(325)	(325)	(325)
FTEs	0	0	0	0

*There is no General Fund impact to the health licensing boards listed in Fiscal Impact chart.

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends the Health-Related Licensing Boards’ IT expense reorganization and reduction. The Administrative Services Unit (ASU) is authorized by Minn. Stat. 214.107 and serves as an agent to the Health-Related Licensing Boards. ASU is seeking a \$647,000 reduction in its FY 2022 and FY 2023 appropriation and a corresponding \$322,000 increase in appropriation for twelve (12) Health-Related Licensing Boards (Table 1) for a net reduction of \$325,000. This appropriation decrease is the result of the Health-Related Licensing Boards’ restructuring and reduction of IT-related costs. The appropriation increases for the twelve (12) Health-Related Licensing Boards will fund IT expenses previously paid by ASU.

Rationale/Background:

Since the creation of MN.IT Services in 2012, funds to pay all technology-related costs of the Health-Related Licensing Boards have been appropriated to ASU as the boards’ agent. MN.IT staff were assigned to the boards and costs consolidated and paid by ASU. As part of its IT restructuring efforts, the Health-Related Licensing Boards worked with MN.IT to reduce the number of MN.IT staff directly assigned to the boards and move to direct-billing. This requires a transfer of the appropriation for IT-related costs from ASU to certain boards.

The Health-Related Licensing Boards are fee-supported agencies. The Boards are required by Minnesota Statutes to collect enough revenue to cover all direct-appropriated and indirect costs. The Health-Related Licensing Boards’ collected fee revenues are deposited into the State Government Special Revenue fund to cover the boards’ IT-related costs. This reduction does not impact the State’s General Fund.

Proposal:

The Health-Related Licensing Boards’ IT reorganization includes reduction of FTEs including software developer position and IT manager position. Database support and project management services will now be paid as needed by contract instead of by assigned FTE. These staffing changes result in a \$325,000 annual reduction in ASU’s appropriation. The remaining IT-related costs have been itemized and allocated to the boards and related programs for payment as direct expenditures beginning in FY 2022. The itemization and allocation results in a \$647,000 reduction in the ASU appropriation and an appropriation increase for twelve (12) boards to cover IT-related costs which will now be direct-billed.

This proposal is impacted by the transfer of the ASU appropriation from the Board of Executives for Long Term Services and Supports (BELTSS) to the Board of Dentistry beginning in FY 2022, which was submitted as a separate change item. The ASU appropriation for MN.IT will be reduced by \$647,000 (from \$1,214,000 to \$567,000) when it transfers from BELTSS to Dentistry.

Impact on Children and Families:

The Health-Related Licensing Boards work to promote public protection, including the protection of the children and families of the State of Minnesota. This change will not impact the boards' ability to continue to protect the people of Minnesota.

Equity and Inclusion:

The Health-Related Licensing Boards do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. This change will not impact the boards' ability to provide services for all people of the State of Minnesota, without discrimination.