

Agency Purpose

M.S. sections 148.52 – 148.62 and Minnesota Rules, chapter 6500 provide the Minnesota Board of Optometry authority to act as the licensure agency for the practice of optometry. It was established and currently exists 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 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, e-mail, and in-person).

Budget

Total direct and indirect expenses for FY 2004-05 biennium are \$232,000. The board staff includes 1.0 full-time equivalent employees.

Of the total budget for the FY 2004-05 biennium, an estimated \$205,000 will be collected as non-dedicated revenue which is deposited into the state government special revenue fund. The board fees charged to applicants, prospective applicants, licensees, and sponsors of continuing education programs. The board is responsible to collect enough revenue to recover all direct and indirect costs.

The board is responsible for the costs of services received from the Attorney General's Office, Health Professional Services Program, and the Administrative Services Unit. A direct appropriation is given to each of these programs from the state special government revenue fund. The board must ensure that sufficient revenue is collected through its fees to fund their portion of these program costs.

At A Glance

Biennial Budget – FY 2004-05:

Total Estimated Expenses: \$232,000

Total Estimated Revenue: \$205,000

Staff: 1.00 Full-time equivalent employees

Minnesota Licensed Optometrist Statistics

(As of July 14, 2004)

Total Licensed: 956

Contact

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The web site at: <http://www.optometryboard.state.mn.us/> gives visitors easy access to useful information.

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
State Government Spec Revenue					
Current Appropriation	96	96	96	96	192
Forecast Base	96	96	96	96	192
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	80	112	96	96	192
Open Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	2	5	5	5	10
Total	82	117	101	101	202
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	63	67	65	68	133
Other Operating Expenses	19	50	36	33	69
Total	82	117	101	101	202
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Optometry, Board Of	82	117	101	101	202
Total	82	117	101	101	202
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	