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**Board of Optometry**

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<https://mn.gov/boards/optometry/>

**AT A GLANCE**

**Credentialing Services**

- 1,167 renewed licenses
- 110 new licenses

**Education Services**

- 1,167 reviews of reported continuing education
- 100% auditing of reported continuing education
- 86 continuing education program approvals

**Complaint Resolution**

- Investigated 47 complaints
- Formal action for 3 complaints

For two-year period ended 06/30/2022

**PURPOSE**

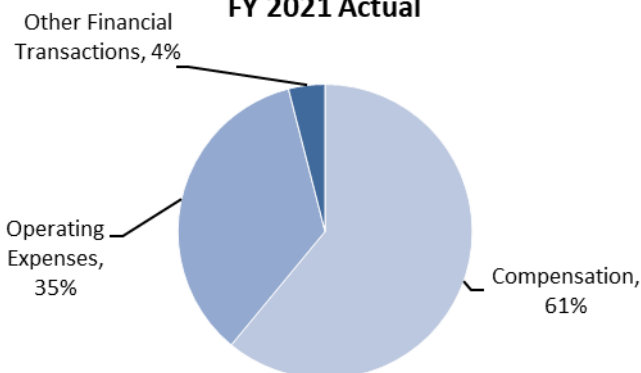
The Minnesota Board of Optometry is responsible for protection of the public through the regulation of the Doctor of Optometry (OD’s) in the state of Minnesota. The Board was established in 1915 under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 148, and was the first optometry board in the nation. Regulation 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.

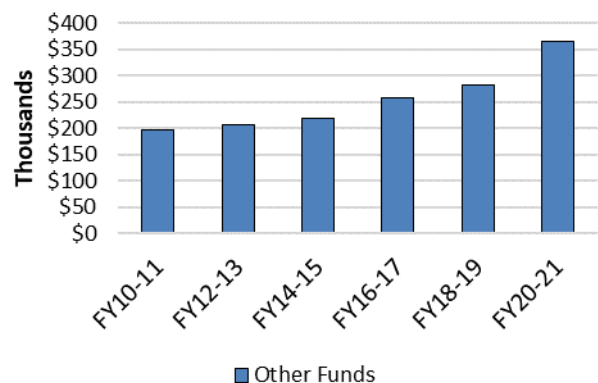
**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category  
FY 2021 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



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.

As of August 2022, the board provides services to 1,226 licensed optometrists in Minnesota and collaborates with continuing education and provider associations.

Quarterly board meetings are driven by seven governor-appointed board members with other stakeholders in attendance. Complaints are actively reviewed by two ODs 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><b>Type of Measure</b></i>	<i><b>Name of Measure</b></i>	<i><b>Previous</b></i>	<i><b>Current</b></i>	<i><b>Dates</b></i>
Quantity	Percent of license renewals completed online	100%	100%	FY 2021 & FY 2022
Quality	Percent of initial applications completed online	100%	100%	FY 2021 & FY 2022
Quantity	Number of formal complaints received/closed without investigation within three months	16/13 (81%)	31/27 (87%)	FY 2021 & 2022

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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.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25

**Expenditures by Fund**

1201 - Health Related Boards	171	190	166	310	238	238	270	280
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	2	2	3	4	3	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>283</b>
Biennial Change				118		(1)		73
Biennial % Change				32		(0)		15
Governor's Change from Base								74
Governor's % Change from Base								15

**Expenditures by Program**

Optometry Board	173	192	169	314	241	241	273	283
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>283</b>

**Expenditures by Category**

Compensation	115	116	101	144	152	154	156	162
Operating Expenses	57	68	67	167	88	86	116	120
Other Financial Transaction	1	8	0	3	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>283</b>

**Full-Time Equivalents**

	1.08	1.02	0.98	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Governor's Recommendation FY24 FY25	
<b>1201 - Health Related Boards</b>								
Balance Forward In		57		72				
Direct Appropriation	227	223	238	238	238	238	270	280
Cancellations	5	90						
Balance Forward Out	51		72					
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>280</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				114		0		74
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				32		(0)		16
Governor's Change from Base								74
Governor's % Change from Base								16
Full-Time Equivalents	1.08	1.02	0.98	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50

**2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue**

Balance Forward In	0	1	1	1				
Receipts	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Balance Forward Out	0	1	1					
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				3		(1)		(1)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				97		(10)		(10)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
<b>Direct</b>				
<b>Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards</b>				
FY2023 Appropriations	238	238	238	476
Forecast Base	238	238	238	476
<b>Change Items</b>				
Maintain Current Service Levels		32	42	74
<b>Total Governor's Recommendations</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>Dedicated</b>				
<b>Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue</b>				
Planned Spending	4	3	3	6
Forecast Base	4	3	3	6
<b>Total Governor's Recommendations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Revenue Change Summary</b>				
<b>Dedicated</b>				
<b>Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue</b>				
Forecast Revenues	3	3	3	6
<b>Total Governor's Recommendations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Non-Dedicated</b>				
<b>Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards</b>				
Forecast Revenues	227	227	227	454
<b>Total Governor's Recommendations</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>454</b>

# Board of Optometry

## FY 2024-25 Biennial Budget Change Item

### Change Item Title: Maintain Current Service Levels

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	32	42	42	42
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	32	42	42	42
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$32,000 in FY 2024 and \$42,000 in each subsequent year from the state government special revenue fund to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Board of Optometry.

### Rationale/Background:

Each year, the cost of doing business rises—employer-paid health care contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs increase. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat from year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. However, cost growth typically outstrips efficiencies, and without additional resources added to agency budgets, service delivery erodes.

For the Board of Optometry, operating cost pressures exist in multiple categories—increases in compensation and insurance costs at the agency, increasing costs to maintain our current staff compliment in a challenging labor market, and increasing IT costs. If an operational increase is not provided, the complement the Board delivers to Minnesotans will be impacted, including providing the public effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of optometry to ensure safe practice.

### Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to support maintaining the delivery of current services. For the Board, this funding will support expected and anticipated employee compensation growth and known cost increases in lease expenses and IT services.

### Results:

This proposal is intended to allow the Board of Optometry to continue to provide current levels of service and information to the public.