

# ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Minutes of the Meeting  
January 17, 2025  
9:00 A.M., HHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2025011010>

### Members Present:

Senator Carine Werner, Co-Chair  
Senator Hildy Angius  
Senator Sally Ann Gonzales  
Senator Janae Shamp

Representative Selina Bliss, Co-Chair  
Representative Patricia Contreras  
Representative Matt Gress  
Representative Ralph Heap  
Representative Alma Hernandez  
Representative Nickolas "Nick" Kupper  
Representative Sarah Liguori  
Representative Chris Lopez  
Representative Elda Luna-Nájera  
Representative Christopher Mathis  
Representative Beverly Pingerelli  
Representative Jeff Weninger

### Members Excused:

Senator Eva Burch  
Senator Rosanna Gabaldón  
Senator Thomas "T.J." Shope

### Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Health and Human Services Research Analyst  
Kaytie Sherman, Senate Health and Human Services Assistant Research Analyst  
Allison Okonoski, Senate Health and Human Services Research Intern  
Ahjahna Graham, House Health and Human Services Research Analyst  
Brooke Gartner, House Health and Human Services Research Assistant  
Ashley Bills, House Health and Human Services Research Intern

Co-Chair Bliss called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and attendance was taken.

Representative Bliss requested that members introduce themselves.

The Committee members introduced themselves.

Representative Bliss offered comments.

## **SPECIAL AUDIT OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

**Lindsey Perry, Auditor General**, offered comments related to the special audit.

**George Skiles, Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting Inc.**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Special Audit of the Arizona State Board of Chiropractic Examiners" (Attachment A).

Representative Bliss offered comments.

Ms. Perry answered questions posed by Representative Liguori.

Mr. Skiles answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Jeff Gove, Office of the Auditor General**, answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Skiles answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Gove answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

### **Response by the Arizona Board of Chiropractic Examiners**

**Alissa M. Vander Veen, Executive Director, Arizona Board of Chiropractic Examiners**, distributed materials (Attachment B) and offered comments related to the special audit of the Arizona Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Ms. Vander Veen answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

**Thomas Marlowe, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the Arizona Board of Chiropractic Examiners and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

No discussion or recommendation took place.

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

- **24-MONTH Follow-Up Report – State Board of Dental Examiners**

**Patrick Jennett, Office of the Auditor General**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners, Performance Audit and Sunset Review: September 2022, 24-Month Follow-up Report: January 2025" (Attachment C) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Lindsey Perry, Auditor General**, answered questions posed by Representative Bliss.

### **Response by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners**

**Kristina Gomez, Deputy Director, Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners" (Attachment D) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

No public testimony took place.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

Representative Bliss offered comments.

**Senator Werner moved that the Senate Health and Human Services and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the State Board of Dental Examiners for 6 years, until July 1, 2031, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 16-0-3 (Attachment 1).**

Senator Shamp and Representative Contreras explained their votes.

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

- **24-MONTH Follow-Up Report – State Board of Massage Therapy**

**Kyle Neff, Office of the Auditor General**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy, Performance Audit and Sunset Review: August 2022, 24-Month Follow-up Report: January 2025" (Attachment E).

### **Response by the Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy**

**Tom Augherton, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy**, distributed materials (Attachment F) and offered comments related to the sunset review.

Representative Bliss offered comments.

Mr. Augherton answered questions posed by the Committee.

## **RECESS**

At 12:44 p.m. Co-Chair Bliss recessed the meeting to the sound of the gavel.

## **RECONVENE**

At 1:04 p.m. Co-Chair Bliss called the meeting to order.

### **Public Testimony**

**Mara Concordia, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Senator Werner moved that the Senate Health and Human Services and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to consolidate the State Board of Massage Therapy and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 8-6-5 (Attachment 2).**

Representatives Bliss, Contreras, Kupper, Liguori, Lopez, Luna-Nájera and Senator Gonzalez explained their votes.

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE EXAMINERS**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

**George Skiles, Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting Inc.**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Performance Audit and Sunset Review of the Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners" (Attachment G) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Response by the Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners**

**Jack Confer, Interim Executive Director, Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Health and Human Services Committee of Reference" (Attachment H) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

No public testimony took place.

## **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Senator Werner moved that the Senate Health and Human Services and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners for 6 years, until July 1, 2031, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 11-0-8 (Attachment 3).**

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

**Lisa Parke, Walker & Armstrong**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Performance Audit & Sunset Review, Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery" (Attachment I).

### **Response by the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery**

**Justin Bohall, Executive Director, Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, Audit Summary and Response" (Attachment J) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

**Jeremy Browning, Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association**, testified in support of continuation of the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery and answered questions posed by the Committee.

## **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Senator Werner moved that the Senate Health and Human Services and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery for 6 years, until July 1, 2031, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 11-0-8 (Attachment 4).**

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

**Lisa Parke, Walker & Armstrong**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Performance Audit & Sunset Review, Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners" (Attachment K) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Response by the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners**

**Tobi Zavala, Executive Director, Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment L) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

No public testimony took place.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Senator Werner moved that the Senate Health and Human Services and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners for 6 years, until July 1, 2031, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 11-0-8 (Attachment 5).**

Representative Bliss offered comments.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their positions on the agenda items (Attachment M).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Christophersen  
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)