

**Agency Purpose**

The Board of Optometry is responsible for protection of the public through the regulation of optometrists in the State of Minnesota. The Board was established in 1915 under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 148. Regulation is accomplished through licensure examination, annual renewal, required continuing education, as well as investigation and resolution of complaints against licensees.

The mission of the board is:

- Protect the public through licensure of qualified optometrists
- Protect the public by ensuring that all licensees provide competent optometric services
- Protect the public by setting standards for quality optometric services
- Promote public interest in receiving quality optometric care from competent optometrists

**At a Glance**

**Credentialing Services**

- 1,000 renewed licenses
- 75 new licenses

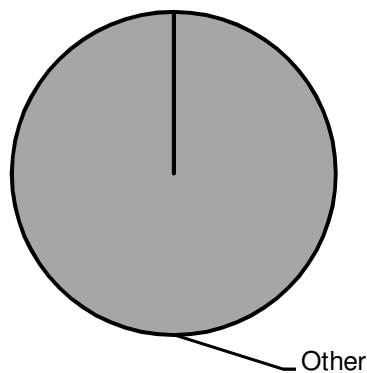
**Education Services**

- 1,000 reviews of reported continuing education
- 100 audits of reported continuing education
- 75 continuing education program approvals

**Discipline Services**

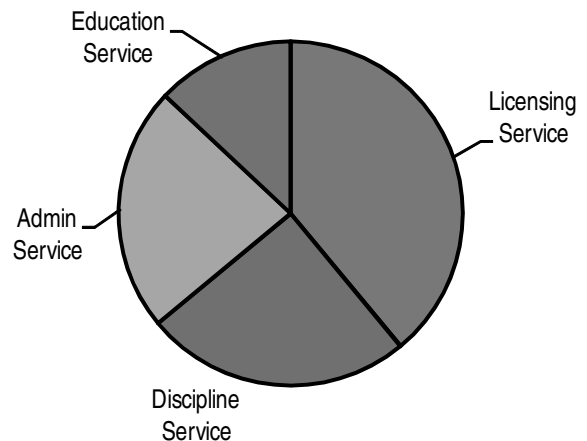
- Reviewed 20 complaints submitted
- Prepared 20 complaint files for committee
- Monitored four optometrists under disciplinary order
- Assured monitoring of optometrists in the Health Professional Services Program

**Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

**Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Service**



Source: Board expenses allocated to the services provided by the board.

**Strategies**

The board accomplishes its mission of Public Protection by:

- Providing information and education to the public, other interested parties, and licensees
- Support public protection by setting standards of practice and conduct for licensees
- Support public protection by verifying that applicants meet set standards for initial licensure
- Support public protection by verifying that licensees meet continuing competence requirements

**Operations**

The Board serves the consumers of optometric services by licensing as optometrists only those persons the board has determined meet the established education, experiential and examination requirements. The board serves the optometric community by providing verification of credentials to other state and federal agencies.

The Board is committed to public protection and to responsible, efficient, and cost-effective services. The seven-member Board of Optometry (five licensed optometrists, two public members) sets the direction for the Board and oversees the agency’s activities.

**Key Activity Goals & Measures**

**Key Goals**

- Promote quality optometric care from licensed optometrists
- Maintain excellence in optometric regulation
- Initiate and complete rulemaking for license reinstatement
- Initiate and complete rulemaking for continuing education audit requirements
- Implement online application process

**Key Measures**

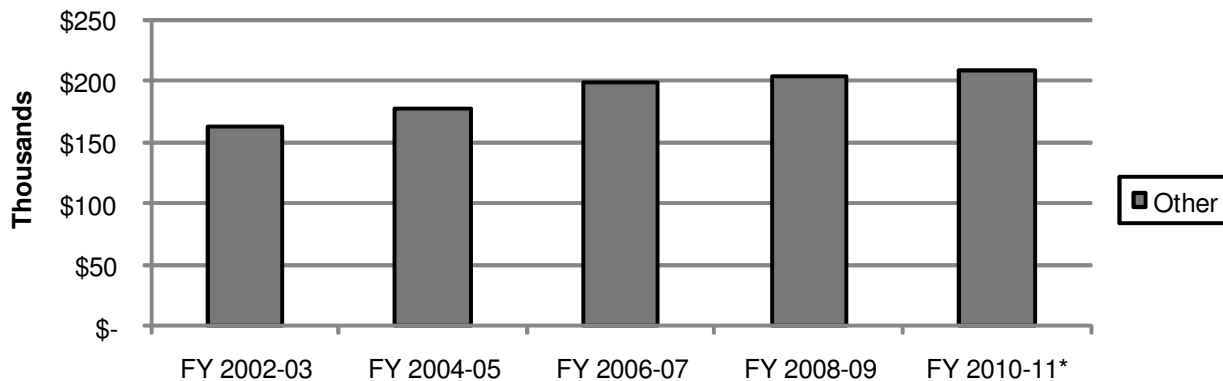
- Public protection – the Board’s website offers several services to the public; verification of licensure, downloadable complaint forms along with information on the complaint process
- Online services – licensees are able to update contact information, record continuing education and complete annual license renewal
- Licenses are issued within 24 hours following approval by the Board
- Manual license verification to other licensing jurisdictions are completed within 24 hours following receipt of request.

**Budget Trends Section**

The board is responsible for collecting sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures. The board is estimated to collect \$234,000 in FY 2010-11, which is 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 activities such as salaries, rent, costs for disciplinary/contested cases and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation. In FY 2010-11, total expenditures for these purposes are estimated at \$220,000. The chart below shows funding trends over the last five biennia for the direct and open appropriation.

**Total Expenditures by Fund**



\* FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual

Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 07/31/10.

Board fees are also responsible for covering a prorated share of support functions provided outside of the Board itself. These include legal support (Attorney General), statewide e-licensing system development and operations (Office of Enterprise Technology), centralized administrative support (Health Boards Administrative Services Unit), funding for services to health professionals (Health Professionals Services Program) and controlled substance program (Prescription Electronic Reporting). In FY 2010-11, some of the health boards' reserves in the state government special revenue fund were also transferred to the general fund. The table below displays direct and open appropriation expenditures, external support costs (prorated share), and the general fund transfers (prorated share) estimated in FY 2010-11.

	FY 2010-11 (in thousands)
Board's Direct and Open Appropriations	\$ 220
Board's External Support Costs and Transfers (prorated Share)	
• Attorney General support	27
• E-licensing support	11
• Central administrative service unit	13
• Health professional service program	5
• Prescription Electronic Reporting	8
• General fund transfer	70
Total	354
Fees Collected by Board	\$234
Prorated Surplus/(Deficit)	(120)

In most years, Board fee revenues exceed direct expenditures and external support costs, and as directed by law, the surplus is used to maintain a reserve in the state government special revenue fund. It should be noted here that the FY 2010-11 transfers to the General Fund, along with unanticipated increases in the support costs discussed above, have resulted in the Board's fee revenue not covering its prorated costs and transfers.

**External Factors Impacting Agency Operations**

The number of licensees regulated by the Board continues to rise, as do the number of complaints and the complexity of the cases. Another external factor which will impact the agency's operations is the ongoing enhancement to a single source national association database to maintain continuing education records of all optometrists. This database will allow for 100% audit of required continuing education, effectively reducing staff time spent reviewing and auditing reported continuing education by Minnesota licensed optometrists.

**Contact**

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