

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 3004.

This bill would extend the sunset for the Board of Examiners in Optometry until July 1, 2031. Though I support licensing and oversight of these practitioners, sunset provisions are supposed to provide a regularly scheduled opportunity to review agencies and boards to ensure that government doesn't grow by default. They are meant to prompt accountability, not automatic renewals.

Other states have streamlined their licensing boards and agencies, and can serve as a model for Oklahoma. Utah consolidated the administration of licenses to a single state agency while maintaining subject matter expertise in the regulation of these occupations. A one-stop shop for license issuance and renewals. Tennessee moved their medical licensing boards under their Department of Health. It's time to consolidate medical licensing boards under one entity. This would save Oklahomans tens of millions in administrative costs alone.

Oklahomans elected me with a prerogative to streamline and reduce the size of government. I urge the Legislature to consolidate these professional licensing boards into a single entity to reduce bureaucracy for both practitioners and constituents.