

State Board of Medical Examiners
Agenda
April 14, 2004

ROLL CALL

**STATEMENT CONCERNING ANNUAL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES Approval of the March 10, 2004 Open Board Minutes.

MINUTES Approval of the March 15, 2004 Open Credentials Committee Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

1. ASSEMBLY BILL 1913

A1913 Attached is the most recent version of Assembly Bill 1913 which seeks to establish a Health Care Professional Regulation Study Commission and seeks to require certain State professional licensing boards to take certain actions. It passed in the Assembly (77-2) on March 15, 2004.

The Executive Committee reviewed this bill at its March meeting and suggested the following comments.

New Section 3: No definition is provided to explain who would qualify as a patient advocate and the Committee questioned why this position was distinct and separate from public members. The Committee also did not support the term limits because this would result in experienced board members to be prematurely replaced and would not provide the Board with the consistency that is critical to Board decisions.

New Section 5: The Committee did not support the requirement that the Executive Director of the Board must be someone in the medical field. The position of the Executive Director demands an individual with strong organizational and managerial skills to oversee an operation such as the Administrative Office. The Executive Director also needs to be familiar with the statutory and regulatory processes. The amendments also do not acknowledge that the Executive Director is an employee of the Division of Consumer Affairs and that the position is already defined in N.J.S.A. 45:9-5.

New Section 5: The Executive Committee opposed the requirement that on the biennial renewal the Board gathers information relating to the "race and ethnicity" of the licensee. Additionally, the additional information to be collected during the renewal period would have to be added to an already six page pre-renewal form. The more information the Board is required to collect will make an already cumbersome process even more complicating and confusing. The collection of information such as this should not occur at the time of renewal which is a time sensitive period to have licenses renewed prior to the expiration of the license.

New Section 6: This amendment requires the Board report to the Panel whenever a practitioner has three malpractice settlement/payments within five years. The Executive Committee noted that under the existing law, the Panel receives this information in the first instance and each time a new payment/settlement is reported to the Panel, the Panel also receives information concerning the history of payments made on behalf of that practitioner. This history is considered by the Panel with the new information received.

NEW BUSINESS

2. SENATE BILL 647

S647 Seeks to establish rules concerning "Practice of Medicine Across State Lines." This bill was introduced on January 13, 2004 and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

The Executive Committee recommends support for this bill.

3. ASSEMBLY BILL 485

A485 Seeks to establish "Virtual Medical Monitoring Service Pilot Program" in the Department of Health and Senior Services. The bill was introduced on January 13, 2004 and referred to the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

INFORMATIONAL

S 557 Seeks to establish the "Patient Safety Act" and to establish a medical error reporting system. This bill has passed both houses – in the Assembly on March 15, 2004 (78-0-1) and in the Senate on March 29, 2004 (36-0).

S 144 Seeks to require physician cultural competency training as a condition of licensure. This bill passed the Senate on March 29, 2004.

A 50 Seeks to establish the "New Jersey Medical Care Access and Responsibility and Patients First Act". This bill pass both houses – in the Assembly (46-17-16) on March 15, 2004 and in the Senate (21-15) on March 29, 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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