

Iowa

State Board of Medical Examiners

STATE OFFICE BUILDING
300 FOURTH STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319
January 16, 1980

RONALD V. SAF
Executive Director

Phone 515-281-5171

Senator John Nystrom, Chairman
Representative Reid Crawford, Chairman
Senate and House Standing Committees on State Government
Iowa State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Sirs:

This report is submitted in compliance with Section 258A.4(2) of the 1979 Code of Iowa.

- A. The Board of Medical Examiners filed its rules relating to the duties of the Board on November 29, 1978, and these rules became effective March 29, 1979.
- B. Disciplinary Statistics for the Calendar Year 1979:
 - 1. Number of complaints and/or notifications of civil suits received.....187
 - a. Number of unfounded complaints..... 24
 - b. Number of suits (notification by Commissioner of Insurance)..... 72
 - c. Categories of complaints:

	No.	Unfounded	Sanction	Referred to other Agencies	Under Investigation
Drug Related	41	3	11	1	24
Alcohol	5	1	2	0	0
Competency	27	8	2	0	17
Ethics & Conduct	13	3	4	1	5
Mental Problems	2	0	0	0	1
Insurance Reports	72	1	0	0	70
Misc.	21	7	1	2	11
License Discipline (other states)	6	1	2	0	2
Totals	187	24	22	4	130

In addition to the above, three doctors died while under investigation. One had a drug related problem, one an alcohol problem and one listed under insurance reports; three doctors have hearings pending, one for a drug related problem, one for an alcohol problem and one for license discipline in another state; one doctor with an alleged mental problem



Iowa

place to grow

retired voluntarily.

C.	Peer Committee disciplinary actions.....	1
D.	Judgments and settlements reviewed or investigated by the Board.....	3
E.	Number of formal disciplinary proceedings commenced before Board or Court.....	9
F.	Number and types of sanctions imposed.....	22
	a. License revoked	1
	b. Licenses suspended indefinitely	2
	c. License voluntarily surrendered	1
	d. Licensee placed on 5 year probation	1
	e. Licensees placed on informal probations from 1 year to indefinite time	4
	f. Licensees given letters of warning	6
	g. Licensee voluntarily retired	1
	h. Doctors denied permanent licenses and issued temporary licenses	3
	i. License denied	1
	j. Licensee suspended for a minimum of one year until such time as he passes the licensing exam followed by a 10 year probation period	1
	k. Injunction filed in District Court	1
G.	Number and status of appeals to Court.....	0
H.	Number and type of Peer Review Committees registered by the Board.....	12
I.	Number of complaints remaining under investigation:	
	Prior to the year 1979	12
	The year 1979	130
	Total	142

As of December 31, 1979, there are 24 doctors who are in a probationary or restricted status who function under the supervision of the Board.

We have encountered several problem areas that may need to be addressed by the legislature.

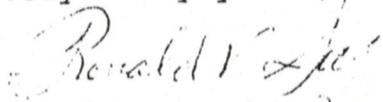
Senator John Nystrom, Chairman
Representative Reid Crawford, Chairman
Senate and House Standing Committees on State Government
Page Three
January 16, 1980

Due to the number of complaints that involved controlled substances, we have requested that our investigator be given an unmarked car in order to properly investigate a number of complaints. To date the Department of Transportation has denied that request. A second request, along with an Attorney General's opinion stating that our investigator is eligible for "dummy" license plates, was submitted and on January 16, 1980, was denied. Since the authority to grant the "dummy" plates is discretionary with the Director of the Department of Transportation, it would appear that the only method left to address this situation is through direct legislative action. Failure to resolve this problem does hamper investigative effort.

As the report indicates, the complaints received have been increasing drastically. As a result, we have been unable to investigate complaint in a timely manner. We have submitted a supplemental appropriation request in order to increase our investigative staff by the equivalent of 2.75 investigators, one full-time secretary and a 1/3 time Assistant Attorney General. The Board has agreed to raise license fees so that all functions of the Board remain self-sustaining should the legislature grant our request for additional funds.

At the present time we are restricted from releasing investigative information to other state medical boards. It would be helpful if we were allowed to freely exchange investigative material with other states in order to ensure that a doctor does not simply move to another state to avoid license discipline.

Very truly yours,


Ronald V. Saf
Executive Director

RVS:skc