



Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
MARK BOWDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director's Report

(Updated 03/31/10 for the April 8-9, 2010, Board meeting)

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

Passed:

HSB 571 & SSB 3079 is the Public Health Department's technical bill. This legislation amends Section 148.3, subsection 1, paragraph a, to read: A Evidence of a diploma issued by a medical college or college of osteopathic medicine and surgery.

SF 153 will allow physician assistants to form corporate partnerships.

Died:

SSB 3085, HFB 2136 defines interventional chronic pain management as the practice of medicine and the techniques used in that practice.

House Joint Resolution 2006 to nullify administrative rules of the Board of Nursing concerning advanced registered nurse practitioners to supervise use of fluoroscopic equipment.

HF 2149 relating to licensing board rules concerning the scope of practice of licensed professions.

SF 2070 would license direct-entry midwives.

* * *

PERSONNEL/BUDGET: The Board is losing four of its investigators to the state's early retirement program: Bernard "BJ" Jennisch, Teena Roush, David Smith and Mary Nelson. Under terms of the retirement program, the Board may only be able to replace two of these retiring employees. With four investigators departing by June 24, the Board will only have three investigators on staff. At full staff, the Board would have eight investigators.

Earlier this year, the Board was asked to surrender five of its six cars (all assigned to investigators) based on new guidelines to help achieve Executive Order No. 20's goal of reducing the state vehicle fleet.

In March, the Department of Management and the Executive Council approved the Board's request to renew its membership with the Federation of State Medical Boards. Still unapproved is the Board's request to renew the membership with the Federation of State Physician Health Programs. Memberships in these organizations provide access resources and information.

Since late November, the Board's staff members (as are all Executive Branch employees) under executive order to incorporate unpaid days off into their work schedules through June 30. Employees covered by the bargaining agreement are taking five days of unpaid leave; non-contract employees are taking seven days.

In the fiscal year that begins July 1, there is a pay freeze for non-contract employees (four members of the Board's staff) and contract-covered employees will receive a nominal raise.

* * *

DATABASE: The Board is adding the uniform physician license application to the database project. The Board is expected to receive a \$7,000 to \$10,000 federal grant to cover approximately 25 percent of the additional work. The database is on schedule to go live in late September.

* * *

WEBSITE UPDATE: The redesign is completed and Board staff members are working to update and add content. The new site is going live this month.

* * *

FSMB UPDATE: Siroos Shirazi, M.D., Board chair, will be Iowa's voting delegate at the Federation of State Medical Board's April 24 House of Delegates annual business meeting in Chicago. The annual meeting is April 22-24. Paul Thurlow, public member, and Mark Bowden, executive director, will also be attending the annual meeting. Travel by Shirazi, Thurlow and Bowden is covered by the FSMB.

* * *

APRIL-MAY CALENDAR

Hearings

(Updated 04/01/10. Subject to delays or continuances)

April 9 -- 1 p.m., Leonard D. Lomax, M.D. (re-hearing)

April 29 -- 8:30 a.m., Robert F. Tobin, M.D.

May 10 -- 8:30 a.m., Stephen E. Sparks, M.D.

Meetings

April 8-9 -- Regular Board meeting

May 6 -- Teleconference meeting

May 21 -- Iowa Physician Health Committee Meeting

Office Holiday Closing

The Board will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.
