

The State Board of Nursing selects each committee's five members who are licensed registered nurses with expertise in the field of chemical dependency or psychiatric nursing. One member is a licensed practical nurse, and one, a consumer knowledgeable in the field of chemical dependency (Code Health Occupations Article, sec. 7-208).

*R.N. TO B.S.N. VALIDATION COMMITTEE*

Cynthia E. Kielinen, R.N., *Chairperson*

*P.N. TO A.D.N. VALIDATION COMMITTEE*

Mary Campbell, *Chairperson*

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**STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIAN  
QUALITY ASSURANCE**

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Israel H. Weiner, M.D., *Chairperson*, 1996

J. Michael Compton, *Executive Director*

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In Maryland, authority to license physicians was granted first to the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland in their charter of 1798 (Chapter 105, Acts of 1798). From 1798 to 1838, the Faculty examined candidates, issued licenses upon payment of a fee, and prosecuted unlicensed doctors. The petitions of botanic medical practitioners influenced the legislature to pass a law in 1838 allowing any person to collect fees for medical services performed, which effectively ended the licensing of doctors until 1888 (Chapter 281, Acts of 1838).

The State Board of Health then licensed all physicians (Chapter 429, Acts of 1888). In 1892, two Boards of Medical Examiners carried on this function. One represented the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty and the other the State Homeopathic Society (Chapter 296, Acts of 1892). The General Assembly in 1957 abolished the Homeopathic Board and provided for the State Board of Medical Examiners to regulate the practice of medicine. Responsibility for disciplining licensed physicians was assigned to the Commission on Medical Discipline of Maryland, created in 1968 (Chapter 469, Acts of 1968). In 1988, the functions of both the State Board of Medical Examiners and the Commission on Medical Discipline of Maryland were combined under the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance (Chapter 109, Acts of 1988).

The Board tests and licenses physicians to practice medicine in the State. For certain causes, the Board may revoke the license of any physician. Candidates for licenses must be graduates of medical schools approved by the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges or of foreign medical schools that offer an equivalent edu-

cation. All graduates of foreign medical schools who apply must pass the examination given by the Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates. The Board determines qualifications for practice by the FLEX examination (Federal Licensing Examination), endorsement of licenses obtained in a reciprocating state, or endorsement of a certificate of the National Board of Medical Examiners. FLEX examinations are held in June and December of each year.

The Board also regulates the unlicensed practice of medicine by physicians' assistants, psychiatrists' assistants, cardiac rescue technicians, aviation trauma technicians, medical practitioners, acupuncturists, medical radiation technologists, and nuclear medical technologists in approved medical training programs.

Since 1967 the Board has licensed certain osteopaths on the basis of endorsement, depending upon qualifications (Code Health Occupations Article, sec. 14-310).

Composed of fifteen members, the Board is appointed by the Governor. The Board includes ten licensed physicians in active practice recommended by the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland (State Medical Society). One member is a practicing licensed physician appointed at the Governor's discretion. One member, nominated by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, represents the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Two consumer members are appointed with Senate advice and consent. One consumer member, nominated by the Maryland Hospital Association, must be knowledgeable in risk management or quality assurance. The initial term for a consumer member is three years. Other members serve four-year terms. The Governor designates a physician member as chairperson. Authorization for the Board continues until July 1, 2003 (Code Health Occupations Article, secs. 14-101 through 15-502).

*ACUPUNCTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL*

Robert M. Duggan, R.Ac., *Chairperson*, 1994

Established in 1982, the Acupuncture Advisory Council advises the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance on the adoption of rules and regulations governing the licensing of acupuncturists and the performance of acupuncture in the State (Chapter 644, Acts of 1982).

The Council consists of eight members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. Of these, two are licensed physicians, three are acupuncturists who are not licensed physicians, two are consumers, and one is a member of the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance (Code Health Occupations Article, sec. 14-506).