



SB 87 – State Board of Medical and Osteopathic

1-19-24
SB 87
Hendon 7

- ❖ SB 87 is an act to revise provisions related to the state Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners (BMOE) and its advisory committees.
- ❖ Over the past several years, the Department of Health (DOH) has been receiving an increasing number of complaints from the seven non-physician professions regulated by the Board and the lack of responsiveness to the needs of the professions.
- ❖ Following the 2023 session, the DOH undertook a process improvement project with the BMOE aimed at increasing the satisfaction of the licensure process for non-physician professionals regulated under BMOE. As part of the process, licensees were surveyed on a variety of areas related to interactions with the Board and Board staff.
 - Each professional discipline licensed under BMOE voiced concerns regarding the regulation of their own profession due to advisory committees not meeting regularly and not having authority to make decisions on discipline, education requirements and scope of practice.
- ❖ The DOH used the information collected and held over 15 meeting this last summer to address concerns raised. The workgroup included affected licensees as well as the BMOE leadership (i.e., executive secretary, board president and board vice president). SB 87 is a result of these meetings.
- ❖ There have been questions about the proposed make-up of the board. The 8 physicians, 7 non-physician licensees, and 2 public members was put in the bill as that was identified by the BMOE as their preferred mix on the board.
 - It's important to note that there are still 8 physicians compared to one representative from each of the 7 other professions regulated by the board.
- ❖ Section 2 of the bill is important in that it adds language to limit any action on matters related to physician regulation (e.g., investigation, discipline, education) to the 8 physician members and 2 public members of the board.
- ❖ The remainder of the bill strengthens the ability of the advisory committees for the 7 non-physician professions under the board to have direct input and level of control over the regulation of their profession – something that is missing under the current structure.
 - Advisory committees would assist the board on all matters related to the licensure, practice, education, continuing education, investigations, and discipline of their respective professions. The bill does not require the board to consult with the advisory committee prior to action.
 - Provide for communication between the board and its advisory committees by requiring the advisory committees to submit minutes and recommendations to the full board following each advisory committee meeting and requiring the board to communicate activity on all matters relating to each profession to the applicable advisory committee.
- ❖ I urge your favorable consideration of SB 87 to give all professions under the Board a voice in the regulation of their profession.