

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER



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## Technology Update

**T**he Board is undertaking a number of activities directed at assisting physicians, allied health care professionals and those seeking verification of licensure for credentialing purposes, in obtaining necessary information as quickly as possible. As we note for your information below, verification of licensure is now accessible through e-mail. We are also currently in the process of developing a web page for direct access to a variety of information. In addition, the following direct telephone listings through which all of our resources may be accessed are now available to assist in your needs:

The area code for all listings is (504):

Information	524-6763
Continuing Education and Resources	568-6596
Executive Offices	568-6816
Investigations and Enforcement	568-6815
Complaint Hotline	1-800-296-7549
Licensure	568-6820
Allied Health Professionals	568-6820
Dispensation Registration	561-0677
International Medical Graduates	568-8569
Licensure Verifications	568-6828
M.D./D.O. Reinstatement	561-0677
Podiatrists	599-1536
Renewals	568-6817
USMLE/Interns	561-0677
U.S. Medical Graduates	568-8567

## Written Verifications of Licensure Status Through E-Mail

**R**equests for written verification of licensure can now be made by e-mail by contacting the Board at the following address:

**LSBMEVER@lsunc.edu**

Please note that the verifications e-mail address is NOT to be utilized for general correspondence. General correspondence should be directed to the Board at P.O. Box 30250, New Orleans, LA 70190-0250.

## Lockbox Services Now Used By The Board

**T**he Board is now utilizing lockbox-banking services for correspondence and documents, which include monies (i.e. applications, renewals, etc.). *The lockbox post office boxes are different from those used for general correspondence and documents that do not include monies.* Correspondence and documents with monies should be forwarded to the Board as follows:

For Matters Relative to Clinical Laboratory Personnel:

Clinical Laboratory Personnel  
Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners  
P.O. Box 54383  
New Orleans LA 70154-4383

For Matters Other Than Those Relative To Clinical Laboratory Personnel:

Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners  
P.O. Box 54403  
New Orleans LA 70154-4403

## WEB Page And Computer Services Projects

**T**he Board is in the process of constructing a web page and restructuring certain computer and other services to facilitate accessibility of available information. While it is anticipated that the entire project will not be completed until December 2001, some services will be completed and available in the interim. Additional information concerning our web page and computer services projects will be forthcoming in future editions of this newsletter. Comments and suggestions regarding the project should be directed to the following address:

**vbenoi@lsunc.edu**

# Legislative Highlights

**D**uring the 1999 legislative session a number of measures impacting the Board in particular, as well as physicians and the practice of medicine in general, were considered by the legislature. Provided below is a brief summary of pertinent legislative instruments which were debated and the outcome of each.

## Each Of The Following Measures Were Adopted By The Legislature

**Act 497** – Requires the appointment or reappointment of all members of the Board and reconstitutes the nominating associations. Pursuant to the Act, commencing in the year 2000, the seven (7) members of the Board are to be appointed by the governor from lists of nominees submitted by the following entities: Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS)—4 down from 6 nominees; Louisiana Medical Association (LMA)—2 up from 1 nominee; and the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians (LAFP)—1 nominee. The measure also institutes term limits—4 year terms, with no more than 3 consecutive terms. While current members are not entitled to automatic reappointment, each member is eligible for renomination by the nominating entities. Finally, the measure provides that member terms are to be staggered, with four (4) being appointed for terms of 4 years—three (3) of the LSMS's and one (1) of the LMA's nominees and three (3) being appointed for 2 year terms—one (1) of the nominees of both the LSMS and LMA, as well as the nominee by the LAFP.

**Act 660** – Requires physicians to self-report in writing to the Board his or her violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act within thirty (30) days of the conduct leading to such offense or be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to R.S. 37:1285. Physicians who suffer from substance abuse or a psychiatric condition and are enrolled in the Physicians Health Program of the Louisiana State Medical Society or its successor program are excluded from the reporting requirement.

**Act 661** – Empowers the Board to adopt rules respecting continuing medical education for the renewal or reinstatement of any license or permit issued by the Board.

**Act 763** – Requires clerks of court to make a reasonable effort to notify the Board within thirty (30) days of a physician's conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or any crime related to the practice of medicine.

**Act 765** – Clarifies the law relating to the Board's use of confidential information in its adjudication proceedings and permits it to respond to federal subpoenas without waiving Board or Board member immunity.

**Act 1111** – Amended the Public Records Law to provide for the expungement of criminal records of the arrest and conviction of certain felonies. The law also relieves those whose records have been expunged of any obligation to disclose arrests, convictions or the fact of expungement. Law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies and Boards (Medical, Dental, Nursing, Psychology) remain entitled to access all expunged records. As was previously the situation, individuals applying for or holding any license or permit issued by the Board are not relieved of the obligation to report accurate information to the Board, even if such was expunged.

**Act 1213** – Amends and clarifies the Peer Review Statutes by providing the Board access to peer review records and witnesses. The measure obligates physicians subject to peer review and others who participate in the peer review process to provide information requested by the Board while at the same time preserving hospital, individual and peer review entity immunity for doing so.

## Each Of The Following Measures Were Unsuccessful

**SB 8** – Would have permitted a pilot program to study physician assistant prescribing and the adoption of rules to allow physician assistants to prescribe medication, including Schedule III-V controlled substances.

**SB 677/HB 1286** – The bill would have permitted psychologists to prescribe medication.

**SB 732** – The bill would have increased the Board's current \$50 per diem, as well as reasonable travel expenses (*i.e.*, hotel, meals and mileage), to a level identical to those afforded to the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry for the past several years.

**HB 1339** – The measure would have established a new category of Licensed Behavioral Practitioners under the Board's jurisdiction.

## Clinical Laboratory Personnel

### Board Contacts

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# Physicians' Health Program Update

**T**he Physicians' Health Program (PHP) has continued its efforts to help physicians experiencing problems related to substance abuse, chemical dependency, psychiatric illness, disruptive behavior and/or physical limitation. As mentioned in an earlier edition of the Board's *Newsletter*, the PHP's move into the Physicians' Health Foundation of Louisiana (PHFL) has been completed. The move into the PHFL will enable the PHP to help physicians in ways that were previously unavailable.

Additionally, program revisions mentioned previously will be completed by the end of this year. New treatment contracts along with the new monitoring program have been finalized and implemented in approximately half of the PHP participants, with the remaining half to be implemented by the end of the year. The new drug-testing program has been fully implemented since July 1, 1999 for all PHP participants requiring drug testing. The policy and procedure manual has been revised, as has the Memorandum of Understanding between the PHFL and the Board, and both are expected to be finalized in December 1999.

Michael R. DeCaire, PHFL Administrative Director, conducted orientations with hospitals and parish medical societies throughout the state in the spring of this year. As a result, both awareness of and referrals to the PHP have increased. Mr. DeCaire is also scheduled to speak on behalf of the PHP at the Louisiana Medical Group Management Association's Annual Meeting in March 2000 to continue efforts to increase awareness. If you are experiencing problems or know of a physician who may be impaired, please contact Michael R. DeCaire. All referrals to the PHP are confidential and can be made anonymously. Additionally, if you have any questions or comments or would like to receive information about the PHP, please contact:

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