

**MINUTES**

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**April 28, 2010**

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A teleconference meeting for the Board of Medical Examiners was held at 5:00 p.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, 227 French Landing, Heritage Place Metrocenter, Nashville, TN 37243.

Member in attendance: Dr. Charles White, Sr.

Members in attendance electronically: Drs. Keith Lovelady, Michael Zanolli, Neal Beckford, Barrett Rosen, Mitchell Mutter, Dennis Higdon, Ms. Regine Webster and Ms. Monica Franklin.

Staff present: Rosemarie Otto, Executive Director; Larry Arnold, MD, Medical Director; Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager and Shiva Bozarth, Deputy General Counsel

A teleconference was held to review and discuss Senate Bill 1552 relative to the seven year rules and Senate Bill 2511 relative to the Safe Access to Medical Cannabis Act.

Mr. Bozarth opened the meeting by taking the members through the procedural steps necessary to convene an electronic meeting. Dr. Rosen made a motion to proceed with the meeting electronically and Ms. Webster seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion passed and the hearing proceeded electronically. The meeting was turned over to Dr. Charles White who was present to chair the meeting.

The Board considered and opined on the following bills:

Amendment to SB 2511/HB 2562 – The amendment urges several agencies to study issues related to the medical use of marijuana and to report their findings to the house health and human resources committee and the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee on or before February 15, 2011. Ms. Franklin made a motion to support the study and Dr. Rosen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Members stated it was the responsibility of the Board of Medical Examiners to promote and look out for the welfare of the citizens of Tennessee.

SB 1552/HB 1895 – The amendment deleted the initial language of the Bill and substituted wording allowing applicants that do not successfully complete the USMLE

within seven years from taking the first exam, be granted an extension if they have an active license in three jurisdictions and fully meet all other qualifications. Dr. Zanolli made a motion to oppose the bill and Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. A roll call vote concluded unanimously the Board opposed the Bill. Board members stated the bill would increase the risk of having substandard physicians practicing in the state. They further stated historically the seven year rule had been good to help maintain the quality of physicians practicing in Tennessee.

Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.