

Chiropractic Fellowship of PA Summary of Legislation March 2017

State Board Moving Toward Full Complement

In recent months, the State Board of Chiropractic has been working shorthanded. The Board is comprised in the law of 9 members (5 DCs, 2 public members, a Consumer Protection member appointed by the Attorney General, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs). Terms are for 4 years plus an additional 6 months until a successor is appointed to replace them. Until recently, the Board only had 8 current members due to openings that had not been filled. These Board members are nominated by the Governor and require the PA Senate to confirm the nomination. If that sounds political, it's because it is. In fact, it is not unusual for openings to take some time before they are filled. However the recent situation was getting to be a serious concern. It takes 5 of the 9 remaining members for a quorum and one of those was beyond the term expiration and nearly beyond the additional 6 month a board member may serve.

Last year the Governor appointed, and the Senate confirmed, three new professional members. One more seat remains vacant, and needs to be filled. Dr. **George Khoury's** second term expires in January 2018, so both of these seats will need to be appointed by the Governor. CFoP should have names vetted and sent to the Governor, and those doctors should be working with their local Senators to be endorsed and get help with the paperwork. The Commissioner of Occupational Affairs has committed to filing all open seats on the 29 licensing boards by the end of June.

State Board of Chiropractic March 23 Meeting Highlights

The State Board of Chiropractic met on **March 23 in Harrisburg**. Here are the highlights.

- **Board Chair John McCarrin, DC, welcomed the members and guests.**
- **Lead Board Prosecutor Anita Shekletski** presented a VRP case for Board consideration in Executive Session. The Board also held a hearing on a licensee case.
- **BPOA Commissioner Ian Harlow** shared the Department of State report. The renewal process, known as PALS is on time and on budget, will be utilized in the next cycle. Harlow noted a number of vacancies exist on many of the licensing Boards under BPOA, including the Chiropractic Board, but he anticipates the Governor's office sending names for all of the openings to the Senate for confirmation over the next few months.
- **Board Counsel Kerry Maloney** discussed the status of cases before the Board.
- **Regulatory Counsel Tom Blackburn** reported on the status of regulations before the Board. Blackburn noted that the Governor's Office of General Counsel had asked for more information and some changes to both the long-awaited Specialties regulation and the Radiologic Procedures reg. He also presented a preamble and annex for the proposed Sexual Misconduct regulation for Board approval. The Board approved both for publication as proposed.
- Under **Old Business**, the Board discussed the recent release of the Governor's Guidelines for Orthopedics, regarding opioid prescribing. Dr. Khoury noted that although acupuncture was mentioned in the guidelines, chiropractic was not. Commissioner Harlow said he would take the objection back to the Governor. The Board also discussed the issue of "dry needling". Harlow said it is still being discussed among several licensing Boards in BPOA.

Next meeting is May 18. Future 2017 meeting dates: July 20, September 21, and November 9

Legislative Activity

The following bills of interest to CFoP were acted on by the General Assembly this past month.

Scope of Practice/Licensure Bills

[HB 548](#) RE: Hearing Examiners (by Rep. Harry Readshaw, et al)

Amends the act entitled "An act empowering the General Counsel or his designee to issue subpoenas for certain licensing board activities; providing for hearing examiners in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs; providing additional powers to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs; and further providing for civil penalties and license suspension," by adding a subsection on hearing examiners requiring all licensees under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to report convictions within 30 days.

Reported as committed from House Professional Licensure Committee, read first time and laid on the table, 3/21/2017

Removed from the table, 3/22/2017

Read second time, and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 4/3/2017

Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 4/4/2017 (197-0)

Budget-Related Bills

NONE

Child Abuse Reporting

NONE

Health Care Bills

NONE

Health Insurance Bills

[HB 125](#) RE: Health Care Practitioner Credentialing Act (by Rep. Matt Baker, et al)

Requires all health insurers licensed to do business in the Commonwealth to accept the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) credentialing application when submitted by a health care practitioner for participation in the health insurer's provider panel, and provides for provisional credentialing and enrollee protections. Directs the Insurance Department to assess an administrative penalty on a health insurer for a failure to utilize CAQH or for intentionally and routinely failing to complete the credentialing process.

Reported as committed from House Health Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 4/4/2017

[HB 735](#) RE: Insurance Coverage for Dependents (by Rep. Mark Longiotti, et al)

Amends The Insurance Company Law to allow for insured employees to opt to have their child covered up to the age of 29 at their expense.

Introduced and referred to House Insurance Committee, 3/7/2017

Medical Assistance/DHS

[HB 114](#) RE: Medical Support (by Rep. Matt Baker, et al)

Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, requiring all applicants and recipients to, as a condition of eligibility, cooperate with the department in securing medical support from the noncustodial parent of any child for whom medical assistance is sought or provided, unless the custodial parent is a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by the noncustodial parent or the application endangers the child.

Reported as committed from House Health Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/13/2017

Removed from the table, 3/20/2017

Read second time, and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 3/21/2017

Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 3/22/17 (191-0)

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee, 3/27/2017

Partnerships/Liability

NONE

Sales Tax Expansion

NONE

WORKER'S COMP

NONE

Upcoming meetings of Interest

Some House Committee meetings and session can be viewed online at: <http://www.pahousegop.com/>

Senate Committee meetings and session can be streamed at: <http://www.pasenategop.com/>

The 2015-16 Legislative Session officially ended on November 30. Any bills that did not make it to the Governor's desk died, and must be reintroduced next session.

WEDNESDAY - 4/5/17

House Human Services Committee

9:00 AM Room 140 Main Capitol

Joint public hearing with the House Health and House Aging and Older Adult Services Committees on the consolidation of the Departments of Human Services, Health, Aging and Drug and Alcohol Programs

MONDAY - 4/17/17

House Human Services Committee

1:00 PM Room 140 Main Capitol

Joint public hearing with the House Health and House Aging and Older Adult Services Committees on the consolidation of the Departments of Human Services, Health, Aging and Drug and Alcohol Programs

2017 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

April	17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
May	8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
June	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

2017 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

April	3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
May	8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
June	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

State Board of Chiropractic Board Meeting Schedule

2017 Meeting Dates (Subject to Change)

May 18, July 20, September 21, November 9

All Board meetings are held at Penn Center, 2601 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA, at 9 AM

DHS Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC)

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON

Lecture Hall 246/248

Temple University Harrisburg

234 Strawberry Square

Harrisburg, PA

Remaining 2017 Meeting Dates

April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, September 28, October 26, December 14

Copies of bills described above can be obtained through the CFOP office, or on-line at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>