



MONTANA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Issue 1 February 2011

News and Views

Read the latest news and find out about the most recent state regulatory changes for your occupation in the Board of Medical Examiners eNewsletter *News and Views*. Here are the Board's picks for important news.

New Board Officers Elected

Dr. Anna Earl, a family medicine physician from Chester, has been elected President of the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME) for 2011. Nutritionist Pat Bollinger from Helena was elected to Vice President and Dr. Kristin Spanjian accepted the nomination as Secretary. Dwight Thompson, PA, handed over the gavel to Dr. Earl at the January meeting and Dr. Earl expressed the Board's appreciation of Mr. Thompson's leadership during the past year.

Board Testifies on Legislative Bills

The Legislature returned from transmittal break to begin the second half of the session on March 1. The board has taken a position and provided testimony on several legislative bills. You can read the bill and the board testimony by clicking on the underlined links below. Information on the board's discussion on a specific bill or other bills reviewed can be found in the meeting [minutes](#).

[SB 27](#) adds a licensed acupuncturist to the Montana Board of Medical Examiners. The board supported the addition of an acupuncturist to the board. SB 27 has passed the House and through the Senate Committee and should be debated next on the Senate floor.

[HB 25](#) expands and revises laws related to the medical assistance program. The board presented information during the legislative hearing process testifying on the effectiveness of the Montana Professional Assistance Program and the usefulness of a recent audit. HB 25 has passed the House and will next be heard in Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee.

[HB 68](#) and [HB 429](#) revise the Medical Marijuana Act. The board presented [testimony](#) during the HB 68 hearing process and expressed several concerns. [Information](#) was also presented at the HB 429 hearing. The House Human Services Committee has not acted on HB 68 and has passed HB 429.

[HB 82](#) requires Board of Medical Examiners to provide an annual report on complaints involving medical marijuana. The board [testified](#) in support of HB 82. HB 82 has passed in the House and has been referred to the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee.

[HB 83](#) creates a prescription drug registry. The board supported the concept of the bill to establish a prescription drug registry. The bill was heard in House Appropriations Committee and has yet to be acted upon by the committee.

[HB 94](#) generally revises professions and occupations law. The board [testified](#) in support of HB 94 as it contained board requested changes. The board also worked with the Board of Dentistry to amend the statute related to anesthesia. The bill has passed the House and has been heard in Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee.

[HB 320](#) adds a firefighter to the Board of Medical Examiners. The board [opposed](#) HB 320 because EMTs already have representation on the Board. The bill missed the transmittal bill deadline.

[HB 396](#) creates the health care provider transparency act. The board supported and [testified](#) in favor of this bill. The bill missed the transmittal bill deadline and is probably dead.

[HB 539](#) authorizes physicians, naturopathic physicians, and alternate medical providers to provide care utilizing immunotherapy treatments and associated medications. The board opposed HB 539 as unlicensed alternate medical providers would be allowed to practice medicine. The bill missed the transmittal bill deadline and is probably dead.

[HB 544](#) requires preabortion screening and counseling and provides for penalties and civil remedies for violations. The board [opposed](#) this bill as it sets a standard of care in statute. The bill has passed the House and has been transmitted to the Senate.

[Join us at a 2011 Board meeting!](#)
[Board agenda information](#)

[March 18](#)

[May 19 & 20](#)

[July 15](#)

[September 16](#)

[November 18](#)

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Vice President

[Pat Bollinger, MS RD](#)

Secretary

[Kristin Spanjian, MD](#)

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[Ryan Burke, EMT-P](#)

Nutritionist

[Pat Bollinger, MS RD](#)

Physicians

[Dean Center, MD](#)

[Anna Earl, MD](#)

[Mary Anne Guggenheim, MD](#)

[Bruce Hayward, DO](#)

[Kristin Spanjian, MD](#)

[James Upchurch, MD](#)

Physician Assistant

[Dwight Thompson, PA-C](#)

Podiatrist

[Nathan Thomas, DPM](#)

Public Members

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[Eileen Sheehy](#)

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[Kay Bills-Kazimi, PA](#)

Executive Director

[Jean Branscum](#)

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