

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 12-62—sSB 186
Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING, INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES FOR PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

SUMMARY: Starting October 1, 2012, this act increases the (1) membership of the state Medical Examining Board, from 15 to 21 and (2) pool of people who may serve on medical hearing panels, from 24 to 36. It makes other related changes, including changes to the required specialties for physician members of the board and the hearing panel pool.

The act also changes the qualifications for registered nurse (RN) members of the state Board of Examiners for Nursing.

Existing law generally requires physicians applying for license renewal to have completed at least 50 contact hours of continuing medical education (CME) during the previous 24 months. The act allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to waive up to 10 contact hours of CME for a physician who (1) engages in activities related to his or her service as a member of the Medical Examining Board or a medical hearing panel or (2) helps DPH with its duties to its professional boards and commissions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

On and after October 1, 2012, the act increases, from 15 to 21, the membership of the state Medical Examining Board, and makes changes to board members' qualifications, as shown in Table 1 below. By law, the governor appoints the board's members.

Table 1: Connecticut Medical Examining Board Membership

<i>Prior Law (15 Members)</i>	<i>The Act (21 Members)</i>
<p>Nine physicians, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five physicians practicing in CT - One full-time faculty member of the UConn School of Medicine - One full-time chief of staff at a general-care hospital in CT - One supervising physician of a physician assistant (PA) - One graduate of an American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-accredited medical education 	<p>13 physicians, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three from any specialty - Three specialists in internal medicine - One psychiatrist - One surgeon - One obstetrician-gynecologist - One pediatrician - One emergency medical physician - One supervising physician of a PA - One graduate of an AOA-accredited medical education program

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program	
One licensed PA practicing in CT	One licensed PA
Five public members	Seven public members

Prior law required that successors and appointments to fill board vacancies must have the same qualifications as the members they succeed or replace. The act eliminates this requirement upon the act’s passage to accommodate the changes it makes to membership, but reinstates it on October 1, 2012.

MEDICAL HEARING PANELS

On and after October 1, 2012, the act increases, from 24 to 36, the number of people who may serve as members of medical hearing panels in conjunction with the Medical Examining Board. It also changes qualifications for physician appointees, as shown in Table 2 below. By law, the DPH commissioner appoints a pool of people who may serve on medical hearing panels. Three-person panels hear allegations of malpractice against physicians and PAs.

Table 2: List of Who May Serve on Medical Hearing Panels

<i>Prior Law (24 Members)</i>	<i>The Act (36 Members)</i>
At least 8 physicians, including at least: - One graduate of an AOA-accredited medical education program	23 physicians, including at least: - One graduate of an AOA-accredited medical education program - Two specialists in internal medicine - One psychiatrist - One psychiatrist specializing in addiction medicine - One obstetrician-gynecologist - One pediatrician - One emergency medical physician - One surgeon - One anesthesiologist
At least one licensed PA	One licensed PA
Nine public members	Twelve public members

Prior law required that successors or members appointed to fill a vacancy on the list to have the same qualifications as those required of the member being succeeded or replaced. The act eliminates the requirement upon the act’s passage but reinstates it on October 1, 2012. It also specifies that the requirement applies only to professional, and not public, members appointed to fill a vacancy.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

By law, the Board of Examiners for Nursing consists of 12 members, including five RNs. The act changes the required qualifications for the RN

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members. It requires one, rather than three, of the RN members to be connected with an institution affording opportunities for nurse education. It also eliminates the requirement that one be an instructor at an approved school for licensed practical nurses, instead requiring that one have a doctorate in nursing practice or nursing science.

By law, the board also includes two licensed practical nursing graduates, one advanced practice registered nurse, and four public members. The governor appoints the board's members.

OLR Tracking: JO:MJ:JL:ts