



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Board of Acupuncture

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
4201 Patterson Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

August 27, 2013

Dear Senator Conway:

The Maryland Board of Acupuncture (the “Board”) underwent a preliminary evaluation this past year as part of sunset review. Based on that evaluation, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommended that the Board be waived from full evaluation and extended its termination to July 1, 2025. DLS also recommended that the Board submit a follow-up report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; the House Health and Government Operations Committee; and DLS by October 1, 2013 to address concerns and the options suggested by DLS to keep revenues and expenditures in balance.

Based on figures provided by the Board in its JCR Report, it was projected that in FY2013, the Board’s expenditures would exceed revenues by \$5,503 and that the Board’s fund balance would be less than half of the targeted 20% of expenditures. Fortunately, as its licensure base of acupuncturists continues to increase annually, the Board’s final FY13 revenue (\$272,097) exceeded expenditures (\$259,097) by \$12,273. The Board foresees a continued increase in its licensure base as acupuncture becomes more prevalent in the country and treatments become more accessible through health insurance coverage.

DLS recommended that the Board consider changing its executive director position, sharing of recourses with other boards and fee increases to keep its budget balanced. After examining all options, the Board decided to change to its Fee Schedule, COMAR 10.26.01, to increase its license verification fee from \$20 to \$50. Since most verification requests are made by licensees who are moving out of state, the Board felt that this increase would have the least impact on its instate practitioners. This regulation change went into effect on August 5, 2013.

The Board also raised its initial license fee to be equivalent to the renewal fee, effective August 5, 2013. Initial applicants have benefitted from paying \$450 for a 2 year licensure period, where existing licensees pay \$525 for a 2 year renewal. The Board

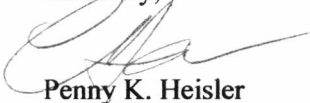


believes that this increase will create parity among all applicants. Together these changes should yield additional annual revenue of approximately \$9,600.

With the increase in its revenue, the Board does not feel that a change in its executive director position and sharing additional recourses with other boards is needed at this time. The Board may entertain these options at a later date if needed.

The Board hopes you find this information helpful. Please feel free to contact me directly at 410-764-5925, if you require additional information or have any questions regarding this matter. I would be more than happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Penny K. Heisler
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, President of the Senate
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House
Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, MD, Secretary, DHMH
Sarah T. Albert, DLS Library and Information Services
Marie Grant, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, DHMH
Board members

**Board of Acupuncture**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

4201 Patterson Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

August 27, 2013

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