



July 1, 2009

**FLORIDA  
BOARD OF  
MEDICINE:**

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**Attention Physicians, Physician Assistants and Anesthesiology Assistants:**

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**Executive Director**

Larry McPherson, Jr., J.D.

Below is a summary of bills signed by the Governor following the 2009 Legislative Session that may affect your Florida license. Be sure to go to

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm> to read more details concerning these new laws.

- **SB 462** - This bill requires the Department of Health, when funds are available, to develop a comprehensive electronic database system for the purpose of controlled substance prescription drug monitoring. This bill also requires registration of certain clinics that perform pain management. The Board plans to conduct rule workshops in the near future. Be sure to go to the Board of Medicine's web page at [www.FLHealthSource.com](http://www.FLHealthSource.com) to stay abreast of the law and future workshops. This bill was signed by the Governor on June 18, 2009.
- **SB 720** - This bill requires the Board of Medicine to review entities previously approved by the Board to grant board certification in Dermatology every three years. This bill also lifts the requirement for physicians to co-sign charts written and prepared by physician assistants. In addition, this bill lifts certain limitations on ARNP's and PA's solely performing hair removal with lasers. The Council on Physician Assistants will be meeting in August to repeal rules relating to co-signature of medical records. **This bill was signed by the Governor on June 16, 2009 and goes into effect on July 1, 2009. Although the rule will not be addressed by the PA Council until August 2009, the law prevails over the rule.**
- **HB 387** - This bill provides for an increase in the number of medical faculty certificates permitted at institutions. This bill was signed by the Governor on June 1, 2009.
- **SB 1986** - This bill primarily deals with reducing Medicaid fraud. It also requires the Board to deny licensure or to revoke licensure of an individual, or persons affiliated with the individual, who was convicted of a felony for health care fraud. The bill also outlines four new disciplinary violations and requires the Department of Health to work with the Agency for Health Care Administration to prosecute physicians who have not remitted amounts owed to the state for overpayments. This bill also exempts sleep related testing facilities from the patient self referral act. This bill was signed by the Governor on June 24, 2009.

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**Mission Statement:** Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida

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- **SB 2188** – This bill concerns Administrative Procedures. New procedures include a requirement that Boards with electronic agendas place copies of the public agenda materials on their web site at least 7 days prior to the meeting. It also requires the Boards to place a copy of their meeting notices on the web site. This bill was signed by the Governor on June 16, 2009.

As you can see, there are significant changes this year. Also, please understand there are other laws enacted that are not highlighted in this letter. It is important that you take a few minutes to go to the web site listed above and read these new laws as well as any others that might pertain to your specific practice type to ensure you are practicing in compliance and that your patient's continue to receive quality health care.

If you have any questions, please send an email to [MQA\\_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:MQA_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us) and Board Staff will be able to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Bearison, M.D.".

Fred Bearison, M.D.  
Chair