

WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



January 16, 2017

Medical Examining Board of Wisconsin
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Avenue, Room 112
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Agenda Addendum Item: "Licensing of Physicians with a License in Minnesota"

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board,

As you discuss and review Wisconsin's processes for licensing physicians with an existing license in Minnesota, the Wisconsin Hospital Association encourages the Board to consider deferring any significant changes to that process until after Minnesota addresses a quirk in its law that is preventing it from fully participating as a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

In the 2000's, the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) worked with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to streamline Wisconsin's physician licensure process in order to speed the ability of physicians that relocate to Wisconsin to begin practicing in their new Wisconsin community. One of the outcomes of that partnership was establishment of a policy that created an expedited Wisconsin licensure process for physicians holding an unrestricted Minnesota license. As border states, a significant number of physicians cross the Minnesota border to practice and provide care in Wisconsin, thus the establishment of an expedited process for existing unrestricted Minnesota license holders has been an important tool to help provide access to care in Wisconsin communities.

In 2015, Wisconsin joined the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which like Wisconsin's pre-existing policy of expediting Wisconsin licenses for unrestricted Minnesota license holders, creates an expedited licensure process for physicians seeking a Wisconsin license that hold an unrestricted license in a Compact. WHA was a strong supporter of Wisconsin's entry into the Compact for the same reasons it partnered with DSPS to create the pre-existing Minnesota licensure policy.

Like Wisconsin, Minnesota also became a member of the interstate Medical Licensure Compact. However, due to a quirk in Minnesota law identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Minnesota has not been able to fully participate in the Compact. Minnesota is actively working to pass legislation to address that quirk. In short, until Minnesota addresses the FBI's concern and is able to fully participate in the Compact, Minnesota physicians seeking a Wisconsin license are generally not able to utilize the Compact to receive a Wisconsin license. For that reason, WHA encourages the MEB to defer any significant changes to Wisconsin's existing Minnesota-specific expedited licensure process until Minnesota can fully participate in the Compact.

WHA appreciates the partnership that it has with the MEB and DSPS in ensuring efficient licensure processes to help physicians begin serving Wisconsin communities, and thanks you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Shabino'.

Charles Shabino, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.