

Board of Licensure in Medicine - Board of Osteopathic Licensure Workgroup
ZOOM meeting
January 28, 2026
5:30 p.m. – 6:02 p.m.

Board Members Present

Public Member Peter Michaud, JD, RN (BOL)
Public Member Dennis Smith, Esq. (BOL)
Paul Vinsel, DO (BOL)
Public Member Mary-Anne Ponti, RN, DBA (BOL)
Melissa Michaud, PA (BOL)
Christine Munroe, DO (BOL)
John Brewer, DO (BOL) (arrived at 5:37 p.m.)
Public Member Lynne Weinstein (BOLIM)
Renée Fay-LeBlanc, MD (BOLIM)

Board Staff Present

Executive Secretary Rachel MacArthur (BOL)
Executive Director Timothy Terranova (BOLIM)
Administrative Assistant Maureen Lathrop (BOLIM)
Medical Director Paul N. Smith, MD (BOLIM)
Complaint Coordinator Kelly McLaughlin (BOLIM)

Legal Counsel Present

AAG Jennifer Willis (BOLIM)
AAG Lisa Wilson (BOL)

Roll Call

A roll call of board members present was conducted.

Discussion of Final Report and Presentation to Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services (HCIFS)

Ms. MacArthur, Mr. Terranova and Dennis Smith, BOL board member, were present for the presentation of the report to the HCIFS Committee. Mr. Terranova said that the report was well received, and committee members expressed appreciation for the thoughtful and thorough work done by the work group.

Ms. Ponti asked if the committee had questions. Mr. Terranova responded that the committee had questions regarding internationally trained physicians, inquired if osteopathic physicians are trained and practice internationally or only in the United States, and questions regarding the investigative committees.

Ms. MacArthur added that the questions were mostly to clarify material included in the report.

AAG Wilson added that the committee also asked about fees and the proposed change in the

statutory fee cap. Mr. Terranova stated that the committee asked if the proposed change in the cap would be sufficient and he responded that there is no current plan to raise fees; the request to change the statutory cap was to allow room in the future should the boards need to raise fees.

Mr. Smith added that Mr. Terranova reviewed the budget and fee issues, including one-time fees for needed changes to infrastructure and that the reserve funds of the boards should be sufficient to cover those expenses. In addition, Mr. Terranova brought to the committee's attention an issue with PA license numbers that will need to be corrected and told the committee that staff have been discussing a plan with ALMS that will not result in any cost to the licensees. Mr. Terranova stated that Ms. MacArthur has done some research, and the affected number of PAs may be as few as ten.

The committee asked if an effective date of January 1, 2027, would allow sufficient time to prepare. Mr. Terranova explained that the workgroup and staff would continue working on plans in preparation for merger.

Mr. Michaud asked if the committee discussed redrafting the statute. Mr. Terranova responded that the Revisors Office will take the draft statute provided by the workgroup and put it into the appropriate format.

Mr. Terranova explained to the committee that the professional associations observed workgroup meetings and were able to submit written comments and make comments at each meeting. The associations, particularly the Maine Osteopathic Association and American Osteopathic Association, may not be in favor of merger. He stated that, although the boards and the association often work well together and agree on many issues, they have different charges. The boards' charge is to protect the public, and the associations' charge is to promote professions.

Next Steps

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc asked about future process and how much work the workgroup should do in preparation before we find out if a bill is introduced and passes keeping in mind that sufficient time is needed to collaborate and work out issues.

Mr. Terranova explained that the next step in the process is a work session. The work session is not yet scheduled but should be within the next couple of weeks. At the work session the committee will decide whether to move forward with a bill. If this moves forward as a bill, a public hearing will be scheduled, an additional work session and then a vote on recommendation. Board staff will continue to work in the background preparing but not implementing any changes at this point. Mr. Terranova expects to know in mid-February if this will advance as a bill.

Mr. Terranova and Ms. MacArthur will be at the work session to answer questions the committee may have. They will inform board members when the work session and public hearing are scheduled.

Dr. Vinsel asked if board members should contact their legislators to let them know they are in favor of merger.

Mr. Smith stated that if there are a bill and public hearing it would be beneficial for board members to be present at the hearing. Mr. Michaud added that it would be beneficial to have physicians testify at the hearing.

AAG Willis recommended creating a to-do list. One item to be added is rulemaking and review of policies and guidelines. Staff could start drafting rules that need to be updated.

Mr. Smith said that he would be happy to assist in putting together a review of current rules and updates.

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc added that leadership officers will need to be selected/combined.

Ms. Weinstein added development of a new website.

Mr. Terranova said that staff will create a list and provide to the workgroup for discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Ponti asked if the workgroup could request a work plan from other states that have gone through merger and ask what went well and what could have gone better. Mr. Terranova responded that he sent out a request and is waiting for response.

Ms. Weinstein said it is important to continue to encourage board members from both boards to participate in workgroup meetings moving forward.

Public Comment

No comments.

Adjourn

6:02 pm