

History of the Board

The Arkansas State Medical Board is charged by the General Assembly to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Arkansas with the goal that all citizens are provided with the highest quality health care. The Arkansas State Medical Board was established by the Medical Practices Act, Act 65 of 1955 and Act 289 of 1957 from which the Board is empowered to license and regulate the practice of medicine. In 1971, the Arkansas Osteopathic Board was abolished and the Arkansas State Medical Board assumed its licensing and regulatory duties. Since then, the Medical Board has assumed the licensing regulatory responsibilities for other allied health professions, including Occupational Therapists, Respiratory Therapists, Physician Assistants and Radiologist Assistants.

The Medical Board consists of fourteen members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms. Ten members, appointed upon the recommendation of the Arkansas Medical Society, are duly qualified, licensed, and active medical practitioners: two members appointed from each of the four congressional districts and two members are appointed at large. One member, appointed upon the recommendation of the Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA), is a duly qualified, licensed active practitioner of osteopathy. One member is a licensed practicing physician appointed upon the recommendation of the Physicians' Section of the Arkansas Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association (AMDPA). Two citizen members are not actively engaged in or retired from the practice of medicine: one represents consumers and one is 60 years of age or older and represents the elderly. These two positions are full voting members and may not be held by the same person.