

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

Policy 15-01

(Adopted January 22, 2015)

COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

*The board of registration in medicine shall form a committee on acupuncture. Committee members will be appointed by the board with the following qualifications: one member shall be a licensed physician member of the board, one member shall be a licensed physician who has been actively involved with the practice of acupuncture for at least two years, one member shall be from the general public and shall not be engaged in or have a financial interest in the delivery of health services, and four members shall be acupuncture practitioners, chosen from a list of recommended individuals submitted by the Massachusetts Acupuncture Society, the New England School of Acupuncture, the Acupuncture Practitioners Association, the Oriental Traditional Medical Association, and any other professional acupuncture organization or institution engaged in teaching acupuncture under the provisions of chapter seventy-five D.*

M.G.L. c. 112, Section 149

This statutory language sets forth the Board of Registration in Medicine (“Board”)’s obligation to appoint members to the Committee on Acupuncture (“COA”). To satisfy this statutory duty, the Board has established the following process:

The Board will establish a preliminary screening committee, subject to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, to conduct an initial review of prospective candidates who meet the minimum qualifications for the position as set forth in M.G.L. c. 112, § 149. The preliminary screening committee will be comprised of the following individuals: (1) Chair of the COA or his/her designee; (2) Licensed Physician Member of the Board appointed to the COA; (3) Public Member of the COA; (4) Public Member of the Board; and (5) Director of Licensing and Acupuncture. The purpose of the preliminary screening committee is to evaluate interested candidates and make recommendations to the Board regarding finalists. The Board will consider all candidates recommended by the preliminary screening committee and make appointments as it deems appropriate.

Interested candidates, including new applicants as well as sitting Committee members whose terms of service are nearing completion and who seek reappointment, will be required to provide documentation and may be subject to an interview by the preliminary screening committee. Items considered by the preliminary screening committee shall include an

application, curriculum vitae, and may include additional documents as requested by the preliminary screening committee. For a prospective acupuncture practitioner member, such documentation shall include a written recommendation from one of the organizations, associations, or institutions specified in M.G.L. c. 112, § 149. A prospective public member shall also submit a statement certifying his or her lack of financial interest in the delivery of health services. Recommended candidates may be subject to a criminal background check conducted by the Director of Licensing and Acupuncture.

Six (6) months prior to the expiration of a sitting COA member's term, the member shall provide the Director of Licensing and Acupuncture with notice of his or her interest in seeking a subsequent term of service. A sitting COA member who seeks reappointment will be referred to the preliminary screening committee. In order to promote fairness and transparency in the appointment process, the public will be notified that applications for service on the COA will be considered upon the expiration of a current member's term.

In the event of a vacancy on the COA, the public, including patient safety organizations and acupuncture and medical organizations and societies, will be notified of the vacancy and the application process. Notice to the public in connection with the seat reserved for an acupuncture practitioner shall comply with the directives set forth in M.G.L. c. 112, s. 149.