

VIRGINIA BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. Name.

This body shall be known as the Virginia Board of Health Professions as set forth in the *Code of Virginia* Chapter 25, Title 54.1, Subtitle III, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

ARTICLE II. Powers and Duties.

The powers and duties of the Board (§54.1-2510 *Code of Virginia*) are:

1. To evaluate the need for coordination among the health regulatory boards and their staffs and report its findings and recommendations to the Director (of the Department of Health Professions) and the boards (within the Department of Health Professions);
2. To evaluate all health care professions and occupations in the Commonwealth, including those regulated and those not regulated by other provisions of Title 54.1, Subtitle III, *Code of Virginia*, to consider whether each such profession or occupation should be regulated and the degree of regulation to be imposed. Whenever the Board determines that the public interest requires that a health care profession or occupation which is not regulated by law should be regulated, the Board shall recommend to the General Assembly a regulatory system to establish the appropriate degree of regulation;
3. To review and comment on the budget for the Department;
4. To provide a means of citizen access to the Department;
5. To provide a means of publicizing the policies and programs of the Department in order to educate the public and elicit public support for Department activities;
6. To monitor the policies and activities of the Department, serve as a forum for resolving conflicts among the health regulatory boards and between the health regulatory boards and the Department and have access to Departmental information;
7. To advise the Governor, the General Assembly and the Director on matters relating to the regulation or deregulation of health care professions and occupations;

8. To make bylaws for the government of the Board of Health Professions and the proper fulfillment of its duties under Chapter 25 of the *Code of Virginia*;
9. To promote the development of standards to evaluate the competency of the professions and occupations represented on the Board of Health Professions;
10. To review and comment, as it deems appropriate, on all regulations promulgated or proposed for issuance by the health regulatory boards under the auspices of the Department. At least one member of the relevant Board shall be invited to present during any comments by the Board on proposed board regulations;
11. To review periodically the investigatory, disciplinary and enforcement processes of the Department and the individual boards to ensure the protection of the public and the fair and equitable treatment of health professionals;
12. To examine the scope of practice conflicts involving regulated and unregulated professions and advise the health regulatory boards and the General Assembly of the nature and degree of such conflicts;
13. To receive, review, and forward to the appropriate health regulatory board any departmental investigative reports related to complaints of violations by practitioners to Chapter 24.1 (§54.1-2410 et seq.) of the *Code of Virginia*, entitled “Practitioner Self-Referral Act.”;
14. To determine compliance with and violations of and grant exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in the “Practitioner Self-Referral Act” (Chapter 24.1 §54.1-2410 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*); and
15. To take appropriate actions against entities, other than practitioners as defined in §54.1-2410 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*, for violations of the “Practitioner Self-Referral Act.”

ARTICLE III. Members.

1. The membership of the Board shall be the persons appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth as set forth in the *Code of Virginia* (§54.1-2507).
2. Members of the Board shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Board unless prevented by illness or other unavoidable cause.

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Election.

1. The Officers of the Board shall be the Chair, the First Vice Chair, and the Second Vice Chair.

2. The Officers shall be elected by the Board members at the Annual Meeting of the Board each fall.
3. The term of office shall be for the next calendar year following the election, or until the successor shall be elected as herein provided.
4. A vacancy occurring in any elected position shall be filled by the Board at the next meeting.

ARTICLE V. Duties of Officers.

1. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board; appoint all committees, except as where specifically provided by law; call special meetings; and perform duties as prescribed by parliamentary authority.
2. The First Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence of the Chair, and the Second Vice Chair shall act in the absence of both the Chair and the First Vice Chair.

ARTICLE VI. Executive Committee.

1. This Committee shall consist of the Officers.
2. The Committee shall review matters of interest to the Board and may make recommendations to the Board.
3. The Chair of the Board shall be the Chair of the Committee.

ARTICLE VII. Committees.

1. The Chair may appoint committees as necessary to assist in fulfilling the duties of the Board.
2. The committees shall be advisory to the Board and shall offer recommendations to the Board for final action.

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings.

1. The Board shall meet at least one time per year on a date at the discretion of the Board.

2. Special meetings shall be called by the Chair or by written request to the Chair of any three members of the board, provided that there is at least seven days' notice given to Board members.
3. A quorum for any Board meeting shall consist of a majority of the members of the board. A quorum for any committee shall consist of a majority of committee members. No member shall vote by proxy.
4. A majority vote of the members present shall determine all matters at any meeting, regular or special, unless otherwise provided herein.
5. Members shall attend all scheduled meetings of the Board and committees to which they serve. In the event of two consecutive absences at any meeting of the Board or its committees, the Chair shall make a recommendation to the Director of the Department of Health Professions for referral to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Secretary of the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE IX. Parliamentary Authority.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules the Board may adopt and any statutes applicable to the Board.

ARTICLE X. Amendment of Bylaws.

The bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Board by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the proposed amendment was distributed to all members of the Board at least 30 days in advance.