



Georgia Composite Medical Board

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2022

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The mission of the Georgia Composite Medical Board is to protect the health of Georgians through the proper licensing of physicians and certain members of the healing arts and through the objective enforcement of the *Medical Practice Act*.

Message from the Director

The Board members and staff are pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report of the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

House Bill 1013 authorizes the Board to collect more demographic and practice information about behavior health care providers in an effort to address workforce challenges of those treating mental health and substance use disorders. The GCMB, along with other Georgia licensing boards, is working with the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to generate data for this new initiative. Additional questions will be added to the licensee renewal survey in 2023 to capture this important information, which will be valuable to policymakers as they further develop behavioral health provider pipelines.

Over the summer, the Board began revising its policies on accepting certain documents. Historically, the Board has required original signatures and original copies of an application's supporting documents, which has meant delays in processing an application due to the wait for that original document to arrive in the mail. Now, all supporting documentation for an application can be submitted via email or other electronic means, which should reduce processing timeframes.

Also this year, the Board launched a new feature allowing licensees to access an electronic copy of the license via the licensee online account portal. Historically, the Board has printed and mailed this document to licensees, and this new feature will give licensees immediate access while also saving the Board's resources.

In this annual report, it is my great pleasure to recognize the hard work of the Board members, as well as the members of the Board's nine advisory committees. These men and women work tirelessly and without compensation to protect the citizens of our great state. Their contribution of time represents no small sacrifice in itself; file review and prep for Board meetings each month alone can cost the typical physician Board member thousands of dollars in lost revenue each month. Our state is fortunate to have these public servants.

I must also thank the small but dedicated staff of the Board, who faced obstacles posed by budget constraints and increasing workloads, yet remained committed and determined to give excellent service to their fellow citizens. It is an honor to serve with this group of committed individuals.

Do you want to know more about the Board? Please visit us online at www.medicalboard.georgia.gov. Once you have done so, please help us get the word out about this valuable website with resources for both professionals and consumers.



Daniel R. Dorsey
Executive Director

At right, some GCMB staffers stand with Christmas presents purchased for DFCS children through the 2022 Clark's Christmas Kids campaign.



The Georgia Composite Medical Board is the agency that licenses physicians, physician assistants, respiratory care professionals, perfusionists, acupuncturists, orthotists, prosthetists, auricular (ear) detoxification specialists, residency training permits, cosmetic laser practitioners, genetic counselors, and pain management clinics. The Medical Board investigates complaints and disciplines those who violate *The Medical Practice Act* or other laws governing the professional behavior of its licensees.

The Board meets monthly to license and regulate the professions listed above. All meetings are currently held via Microsoft Teams. Agendas, minutes, and additional information can be found on the Board's website.

Committees of the Board

Each of the 16 members of the Board is assigned to various committees to participate in the decision-making functions of the Board. All matters reviewed and discussed before the Board Committees are sent to the full board for final review and approval. The following list briefly describes committees of the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

The **Licensure Committee** is comprised of six members of the Board. It evaluates each applicant's fitness to practice his or her profession in Georgia. It does this by establishing standards for licensure and practice, reviewing non-routine applications, and interviewing applicants as needed in order to grant licenses.

The **Investigative Committee** is comprised of six members of the Board, and examines initial complaints made against professional licensees, the results of all investigations, and medical malpractice reports, in order to determine if a violation of the Medical Practice Act may have occurred.

The **Wellness Committee** is comprised of five members of the Board. It is charged with reviewing cases in which an impairment issue could impact the licensee's practice or return to practice.

The **Rules Committee** is comprised of all members of the Board. It was created to develop rules to govern the performance of health care practitioners regulated by the Board. Its goal is to assist the Board in defining, assessing, and assuring the continued competency of all licensees throughout their professional careers.

Nine **Advisory Committees**, comprised of volunteer professionals from the community and at least two members of the Board, help regulate the following professions in much the same manner as the Physician Licensing Committee does for physicians:

- Acupuncture Committee
- Clinical Perfusionist Committee
- Cosmetic Laser Practitioner Committee
- Genetic Counselor Committee
- Nurse Protocol Committee
- Orthotist and Prosthetist Committee
- Pain Management Clinic Committee
- Physician Assistant Committee
- Respiratory Care Professional Committee

About the Board

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is comprised of 15 members appointed by the governor to fill four-year terms and one PA ex-officio member appointed by the Board. These men and women are volunteers who selflessly give more than 15 days per year in the service of their fellow Georgians. Each physician member is an actively-practicing, highly-respected professional in medicine, and in the case of the Board's consumer members, in their respective career fields.

Board Members

(as of December 2022)

John S. Antalis, MD

*Whitfield County
Past Chairperson (2016– 2017)*

Subrahmanya Bhat, MD

Henry County

William Bostock, DO

Gwinnett County

Kathryn Cheek, MD

Taylor County

Ruth Ann Pannell Crider, MD

Bulloch County

Despina Dalton, MD

*Cobb County
Past Chairperson (2021– 2022)*

Charmaine Faucher, PA-C

*Cobb County
Ex-Officio Member*

Austin Flint, MD

Hall County

Sreenivasulu "Sreeni" Gangasani MD

Gwinnett County

Judy Gardner, PharmD

*Fulton County
Consumer Member*

Alexander S. Gross, MD

*Dekalb County
Past Chairperson (2010– 2011)*

Charles E. Harris, Jr.

*Hall County
Consumer Member*

J. Jeffrey Marshall, MD

Fulton County

Matthew W. Norman, MD

*Fulton County
Current Chairperson (2022– 2023)*

Andrew Reisman, MD

*Hall County
Current Vice Chairperson (2022– 2023)*

Barby J. Simmons, DO

*Henry County
Past Chairperson (2020– 2021)*

Management & Key Staff

Kierra Battle

Executive Assistant

Carl Bedingfield, MD

Medical Director

Latisha Bias

Enforcement Manager

Millandra Cochran

Finance Manager

Daniel R. Dorsey, MBA

Executive Director

David Harris

Licensure Manager

Kenneth Morrow

Director of Investigations & Enforcement

Monty Shuman, MD

Assistant Medical Director

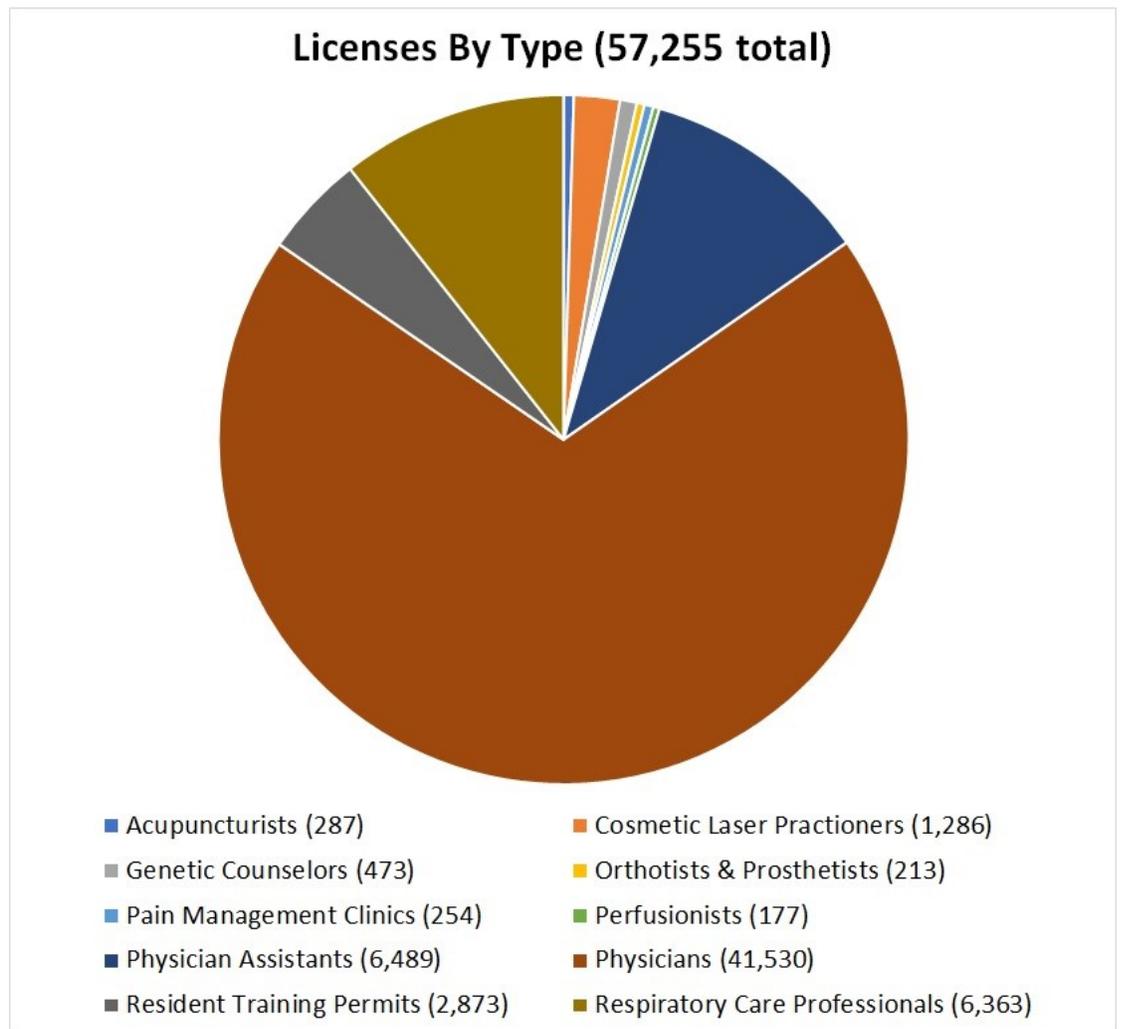
Richard Weil, MD

Assistant Medical Director

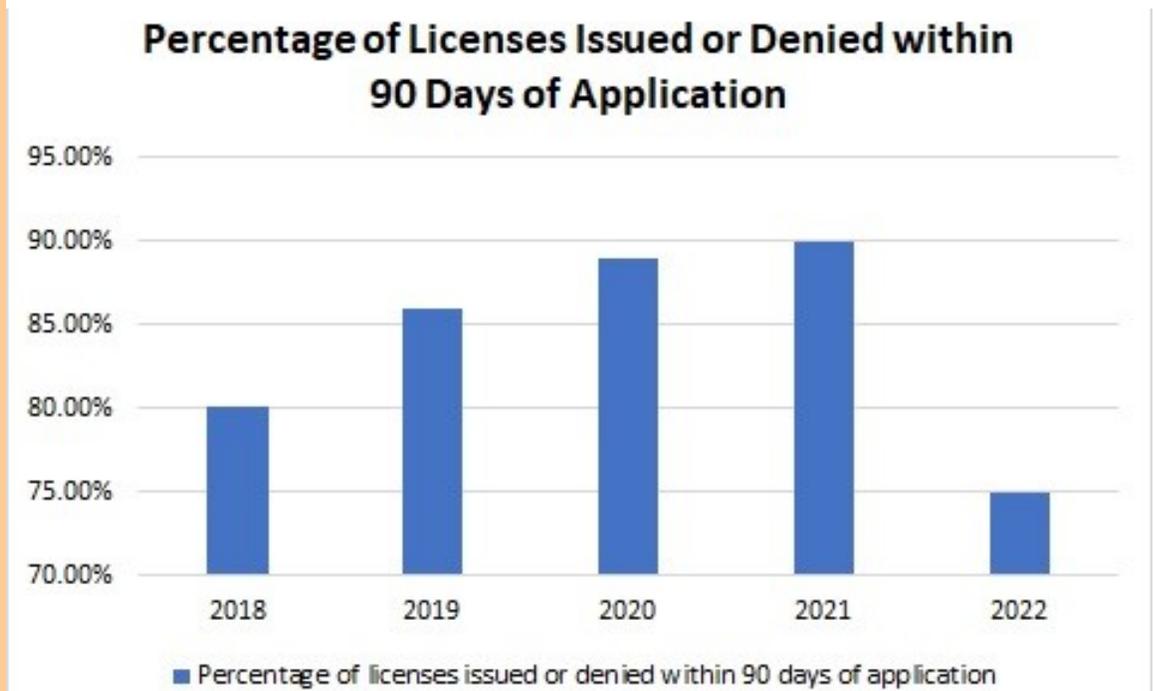
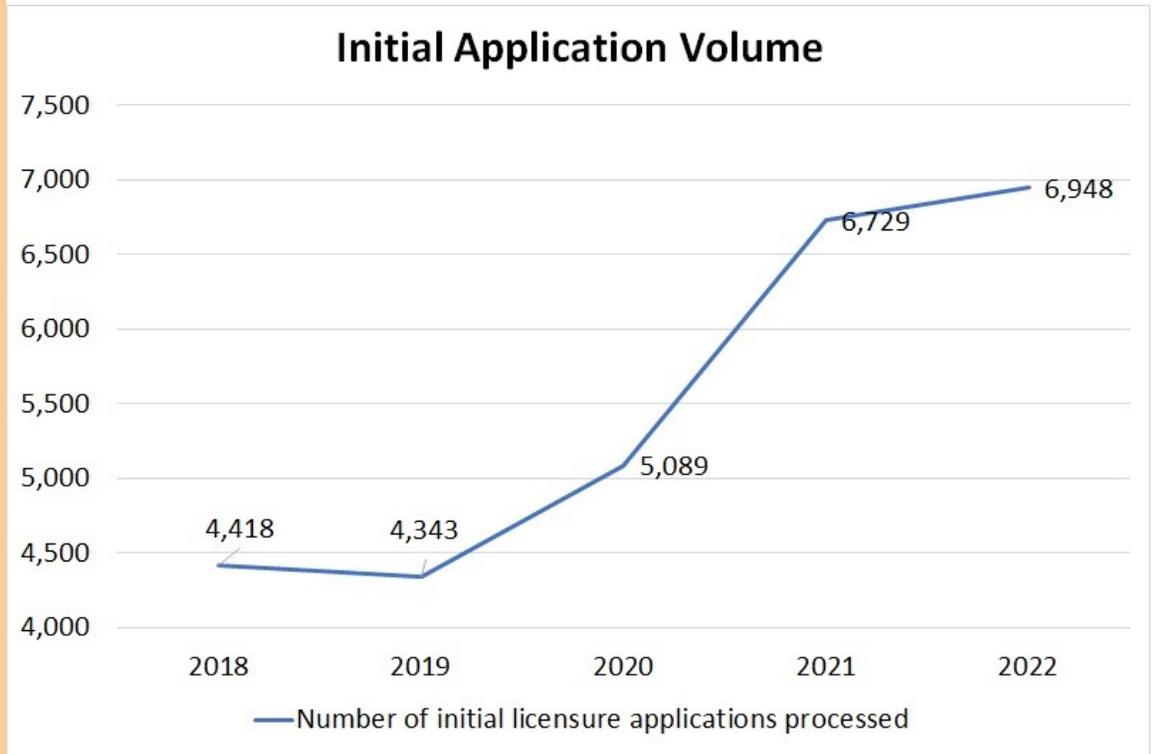
Licensing and Protocol Review

The regulation of the practice of medicine and other professions by the state of Georgia is undertaken for one purpose – to protect Georgians by ensuring that those who practice a particular profession have the education, training, and skill to practice safely. The Board also reviews physicians’ protocols with advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Licenses must be renewed periodically – in Georgia, typically every two years – to help ensure continued competency.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Board processed **6,948** initial licensure applications, an increase of almost **60** percent from a few years ago in FY 2019. Also in FY 2022, the Board reviewed **3,215** APRN prescribing protocols and processed **26,861** renewal applications.

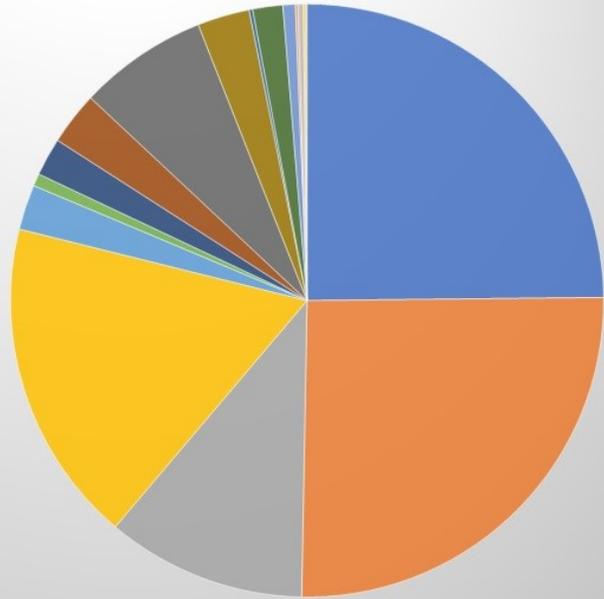


Licensing Trends Over Previous Fiscal Years



FY22 Complaint Type Received

Unprofessional Conduct (515)
Quality of Care (528)
Malpractice (226)
Other (367)
Sexual Misconduct (51)
Fraud (14)
Records Release (43)
Discipline Other State (60)
Prescribing (146)
Unlicensed Practice (59)
Criminal Conviction (4)
Impairment (34)
Hosp. Adverse Action (14)
Violation-BRD Order (3)
Lack of Qualifications (6)
Compliance (3)
Conversion (1)



Patient Protection Through Objective Enforcement

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is responsible for regulating and enforcing the *Medical Practice Act* and the rules adopted by the Board. The Board’s staff devotes much of its time to this serious responsibility to ensure the public’s safety.

Complaints come to the Board from a variety of sources including patients, family members, fellow practitioners, hospitals, other law enforcement agencies, other state medical boards, malpractice actions, the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), etc.

Each complaint is evaluated by the Board’s medical director and management staff to determine if the complaint is within the jurisdiction of the GCMB. A complaint within the jurisdiction of the Medical Board may then follow one of two paths: (1) a Matter Under Inquiry (MUI) or (2) a formal investigation. In an MUI, the licensee is asked to give a narrative response concerning their medical care rendered. The patient’s records are subpoenaed for evaluation by a panel of Board members assigned to review the complaint. The panel presents its findings to the Board, which then determines if the licensee may have violated the Georgia Medical Practice Act or otherwise deviated from the generally accepted standards of care. An MUI may turn into a formal investigation by the Board.

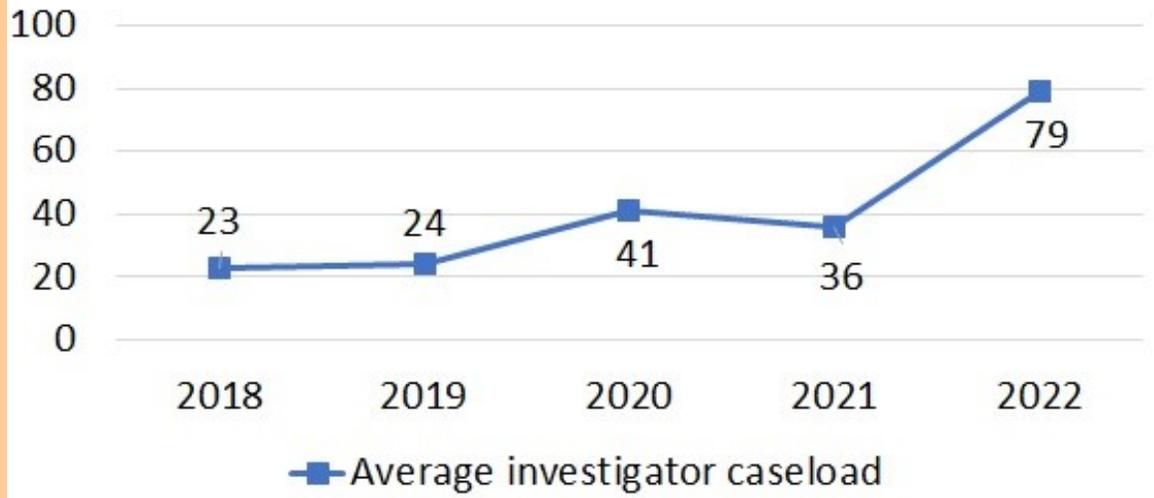
Serious complaints, criminal violations, public safety threats, and similar situations are referred directly for formal investigations by the Board’s agents. These agents are certified law enforcement personnel who are trained in traditional investigations. The results of investigations by agents are also evaluated by Board members to determine if there are violations and any discipline and/or prosecutions are warranted.

During Fiscal Year 2022, the Board received and opened **2,074** new complaints. Of the new complaints received, **1,845** pertained to physicians (approximately **89.0** percent).

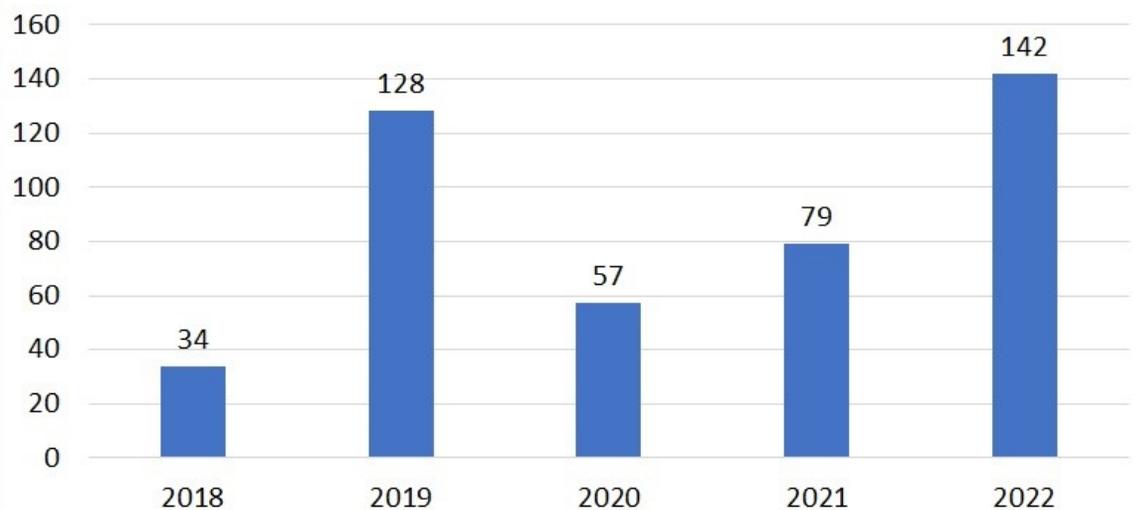
Enforcement

Enforcement Trends Over Previous Fiscal Years

Average Investigator Caseload



Number of Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Licensed Professionals



Protecting Patients While Delivering Value to Georgia

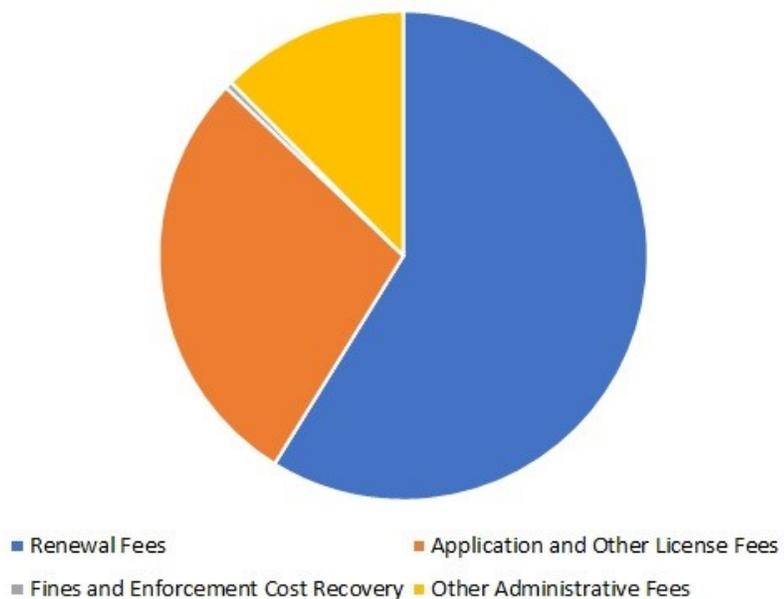
The Georgia Composite Medical Board operates with a budget appropriated by the General Assembly and revenue collected through certain administrative fees. The services that the Board provides to the people of Georgia are delivered in an efficient, cost-effective way.

In FY 2022, the Board’s total appropriated budget was **\$2,641,510**. These funds are entirely used toward salary and fringe for its staff of approximately 30 people.

All renewal fees, licensing fees, and enforcement fines are remitted to the state’s treasury, which totaled **\$7,545,395**. The remaining category of administrative fees is the revenue that the Board uses for its operating expenses, which accounted for **\$1,072,924** in FY 2022. Administrative fees include fees from printing decorative wall certificates, issuing official license verifications, reviewing nurse and vaccine protocols, and distributing copies of the Board’s licensee database.

Fee Category	Amount
Renewal Fees	\$5,070,390
Application and Other License Fees	\$2,435,101
Fines and Enforcement Cost Recovery	\$39,904
Other Administrative Fees	\$1,072,924
Total	\$8,618,319

Revenue Collected, FY 2022



What's on Tap in 2023 for the GCMB?

- Beginning January 1, a new question will be on the physician license renewal application asking if the licensee has completed education and training in professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct. This will allow the Board to ensure physicians are completing the training, as required in O.C.G.A. § 43-34-11(a)(6). With physicians now required to complete this education and training, they will be better equipped to recognize and prevent potential boundary violations, ultimately leading to a safer environment for patients seeking medical care.
- The Board is finalizing implementation (with its software vendor) to add questions to the renewal survey to capture additional demographic and workforce information on behavioral health care providers, as authorized under House Bill 1013. Georgia is experiencing some workforce challenges for those treating mental health and substance use disorders, especially in rural areas, and this additional data will be valuable to policymakers as they further develop behavioral health provider pipelines.
- The Board is moving its office to the Twin Towers State Building in 2023. More information will be on the Board's website as this project "moves" along!



Georgia Composite Medical Board

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Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Questions?

Comments?

Concerns?

(404) 656-3913

<https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/>

Feel free to reach out!

medbd@dch.ga.gov

Copies of any report published by the Board, including previous annual reports, are accessible on the Board's website.