



Georgia Composite Medical Board

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2015

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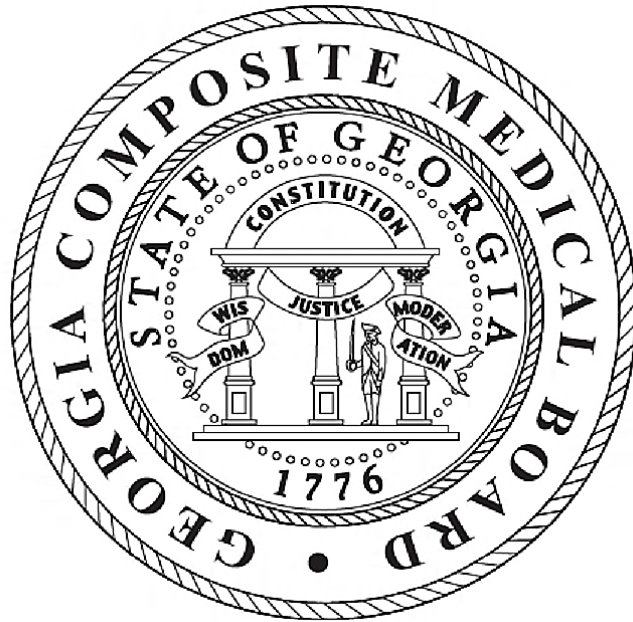


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The mission of the Georgia Composite Medical Board is to protect the health of Georgians through the proper licensing of physicians and certain members of the healing arts and through the objective enforcement of the *Medical Practice Act*.

Message from the Executive Director

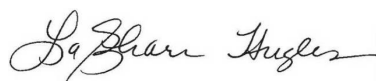
The Board members and staff are pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Among other significant achievements, I am especially proud that the Board, in close consultation with the Department of Public Health, played a key role in the creation of the Low THC Oil Registry, which was authorized by **Haleigh's Hope Act (House Bill 1)**.

Under HB 1, patients and caregivers of patients who believe they may be eligible can consult with their physician about the possibility of obtaining a card allowing them to possess 20 fluid ounces of low THC oil within the state of Georgia. If approved by the physician, the patient or patient's caregivers' information will be entered into DPH's secure Low THC Oil Registry, and a card will be issued.

I am also pleased to note our successful implementation of **House Bill 504**, which requires pharmacists and nurses who are parties to a vaccine protocol to hold current certification in Basic Cardiac Life Support, complete certain training, and to maintain individual liability insurance of at least \$250,000. Each pharmacist and nurse who is a party to a protocol must also submit a notarized affidavit to the delegating physician attesting to compliance with the law's liability insurance, certification, and training requirements, and identifying the location or locations in which the pharmacist or nurse will administer vaccinations pursuant to the vaccine protocol agreement.

In each 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 seven 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; Board meetings each month alone can cost the typical physician Board member hundreds 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 cuts and increasing workloads, yet remained committed and determined to give excellent service to their fellow citizens. I am honored and humbled 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 professionals and consumers.



LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director



Hughes and Gov. Nathan Deal

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 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. Although meetings times and location may vary, the majority of meetings are held at the Board's office in Atlanta. 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. The following list briefly describes committees of the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

The **Investigative Committee** is comprised of four 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 **Physician Licensing Committee** is comprised of four 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 **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.

Seven **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:

- Clinical Perfusionist Committee
- Acupuncture Committee
- APRN Protocol Committee
- Respiratory Care Committee
- Physician Assistant Committee
- Orthotist and Prosthetist Committee
- Cosmetic Laser Practitioner Committee

All matters reviewed and discussed before the Board Committees are sent to the full board for final review and approval.

Board Members and Leadership Staff

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 unpaid volunteers who selflessly give more than 15 days per year in the service of their fellow Georgians. Each board member is an actively-practicing, highly-respected professional in medicine or, in the case of the Board's Consumer Members, in their own career fields.

The Board

Board Members

Alice A. House, MD
Warner Robins
Chairperson

John S. Antalis, MD
Dalton
Vice-Chairperson

Keisha Callins, MD
Albany

E. Daniel DeLoach, MD
Savannah

John Downey, DO
Augusta

Charmaine Faucher, PA-C
Kennesaw
Ex-Officio

Alexander S. Gross, MD
Dunwoody
Past Chairperson

John Jeffrey Marshall, MD
Gainesville

Jane Camille "Cami" McGarity
Gainesville
Consumer

B.K. Mohan, MD
Riverdale

George E. "Trey" Powell III, MD
Hahira

David W. Retterbush, MD
Valdosta
Immediate Past Chairperson

Joe Sam Robinson, MD
Macon

Ronald "Ronnie" Wallace, MBA
Rome
Consumer

Richard L. Weil, MD
Atlanta
Past Chairperson

Charles L. White, DO
Cleveland
Past Chairperson

Board Leadership Staff

Edwin Slappey, MD
Medical Director

Karl Reimers
Director of Investigations

Carol Dorsey
Licensure Unit Manager

LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director

Robert Jeffery, MBA
Director of Operations

Jennifer Bass, MS
Director of Special Projects

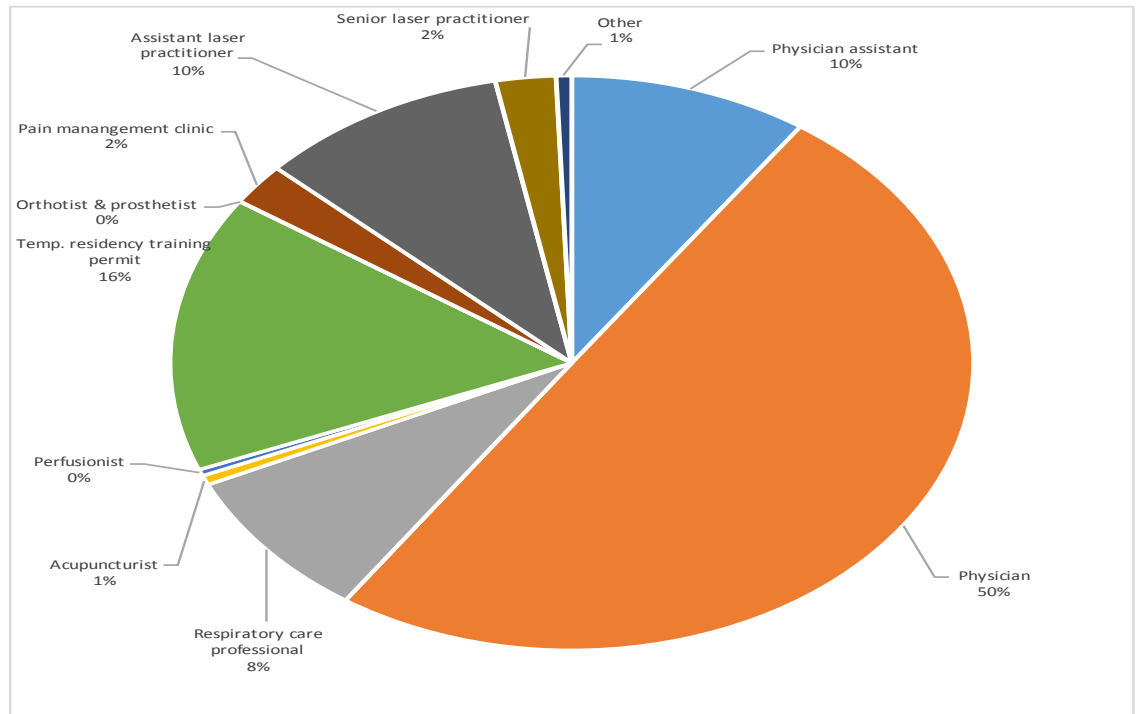
Pat Sherman
Enforcement Unit Supervisor

Licensing and Nurse 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 (APRN). Licenses must be renewed periodically – in Georgia, typically every two years – to help ensure continued competency.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the Board issued **4,652** new licenses, an increase of over **20** percent from the previous fiscal year. Also in FY 2015, the Board processed **1,150** applications to add or change supervising physicians for PAs and reviewed **1,984** APRN prescribing protocols, and during FY 2015, the Board processed **23,078** renewal applications.

New Licenses Issued, July 2014 Through June 2015 Total, All Types:

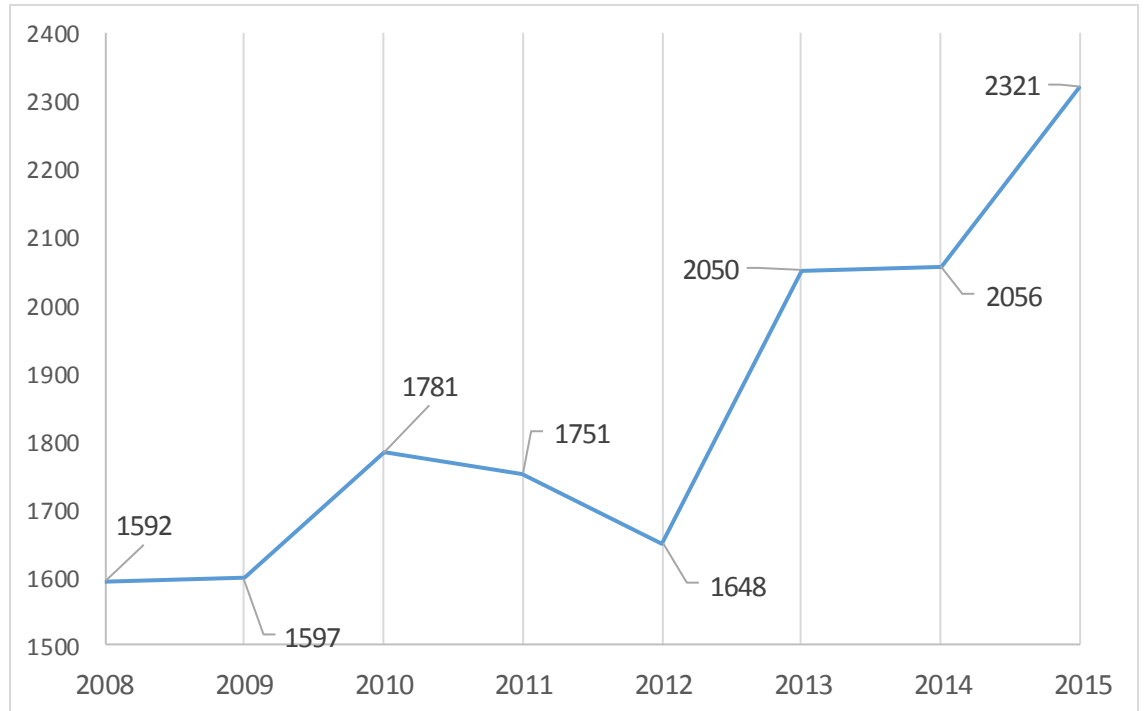


Profession	Licenses Issued
Physician	2,321
Physician assistant	448
Respiratory care professional	396
Acupuncturist	25
Perfusionist	17
Temp. residency training permit	724
Orthotist & prosthetist	1
Pain management clinic	109
Assistant laser practitioner	469
Senior laser practitioner	113
Other	29

Total Licenses Issued in FY 2015
4,652

Licensing Trends Over Previous Fiscal Years

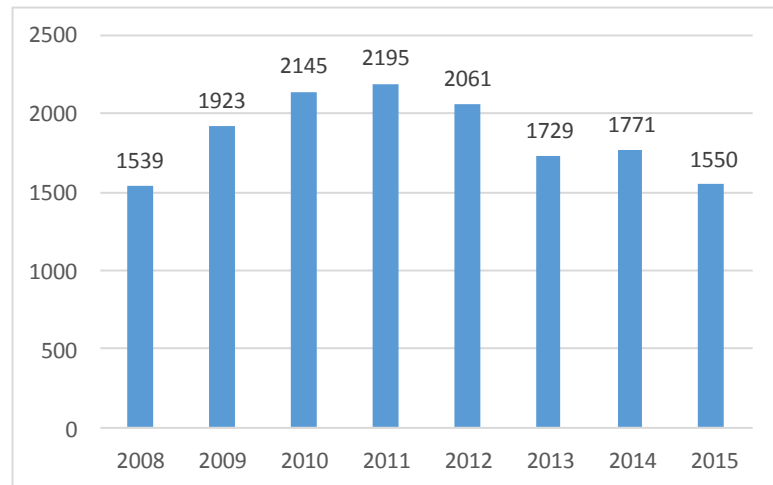
New physician licenses issued, fiscal years 2008 - 2015



PA/supervising physician applications and APRN protocols reviewed, fiscal years 2012 - 2015

Year	PA add/change	Percent change	APRN reviews	Percent change
2012	884	-	979	-
2013	1014	14.71	1166	19.1
2014	1059	4.44	1711	46.74
2015	1150	8.59	1984	15.96

Complaints Received by Fiscal Year



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.

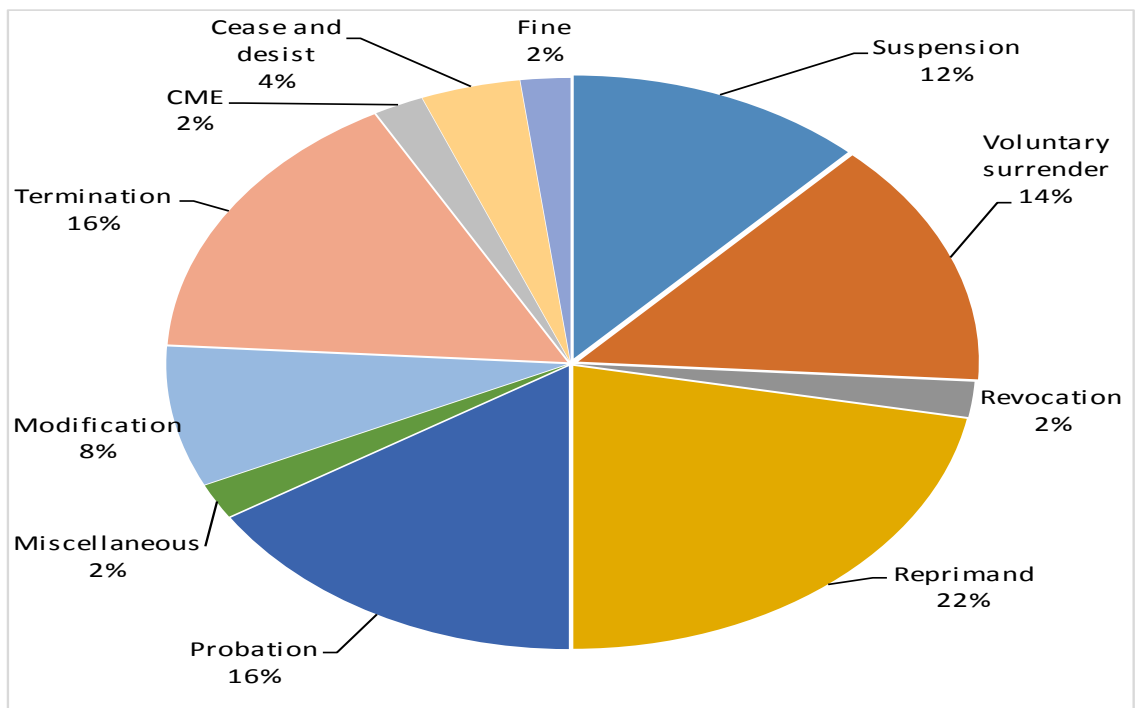
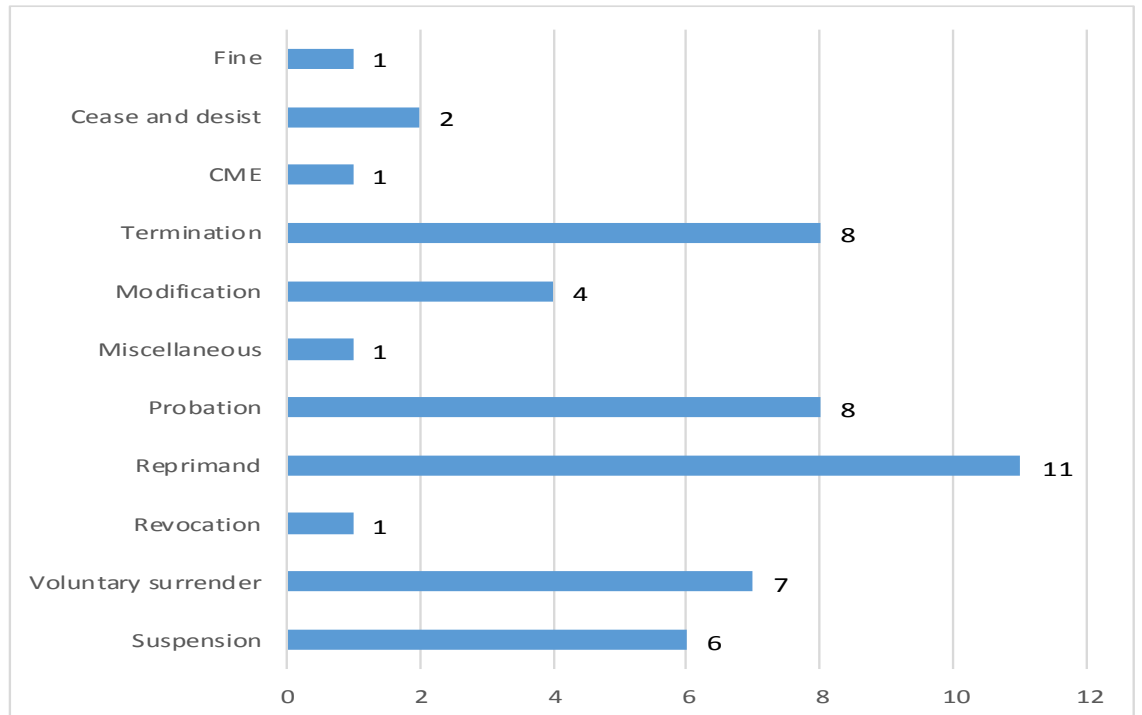
Serious complaints, criminal violations, public safety threats, and similar situations are referred directly for formal investigations by the Board's agents. These agents are certified law enforcement personnel who are trained in traditional investigations. The results of investigations by agents are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

During Fiscal Year 2015, the Board received and opened **1,550** new complaints. Of the new complaints received, **1,202** (or **77.5** percent of the complaints) were found to be within the jurisdiction of the Board either inquired on (MUI) or investigated.

Discipline

During FY 2015, the Board issued **50** public sanctions against **48** licensees through various dispositions (public reprimand, probation, revocation, etc.).

Public Sanctions Issued in FY 2015



The Georgia Composite Medical Board: Delivering Value to Georgia

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

In FY 2015, the Board’s total budget was **\$2,402,124**, appropriated by the General Assembly, with which the Board enhanced the health and safety of Georgia’s patients through its licensing and regulatory activities. During the year, the Board collected nearly **three** times that amount in fees, which were turned over to the state’s treasury – a return on investment of **190.8** percent.

While application and other license fees appear less than FY 2014, it is likely due to the influx of applications for licensure in FY 2014 during the implementation of the Georgia Pain Management Clinic Act.

Revenue Collected, Fiscal Year 2015

Fee category	FY 2015	Pct. change over FY 2014
Renewal fees	\$4,340,040.00	8.16
Application and other license fees	\$2,144,345.00	(2.81)
Fines and enforcement cost recovery	\$202,500.00	55.17
Other administrative fees	\$300,082.49	11.04
Total	\$6,986,967.49	5.55

