

# GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **GEORGIA MEDICAL BOARD TO REGULATE COSMETIC LASER SERVICES** *December 1, 2014 is Deadline to Apply Under Law's Grandfather Provision*

**Atlanta, Georgia, April 1, 2014** – The Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) announced a deadline of December 1, 2014 to submit applications for licensure under the grandfather provision of the Cosmetic Laser Services Act today. The Board also issued a call for candidates for the Cosmetic Laser Services Advisory Committee, which will develop the rules and application materials for licensure as a cosmetic laser practitioner. Originally enacted in 2007 as House Bill 528, the law became effective February 26, 2014 upon its initial funding in the Amended Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

The Cosmetic Laser Services Act prohibits unlicensed cosmetic skin care, photo rejuvenation, or hair removal using lasers or intense pulsed light (IPL) devices. Two license levels are specified in the law. A **senior laser practitioner** must have (1) three or more years of current or previous licensure or national board certification as a medical practitioner, (2) three or more years of clinical or technological experience, and (3) two certificates from approved laser/IPL continuing education courses. An **assistant laser practitioner** must have (1) a previous license as a medical practitioner or a current license as a physician assistant, nurse, LPN, esthetician, or master cosmetologist, and (2) three or more certificates from approved laser/IPL continuing education courses. Facilities providing cosmetic laser services (other than hair removal) are required to have a consulting physician who is trained in laser modalities who must examine patients prior to their receiving laser services, and they can only provide services under the supervision of a senior laser practitioner or a physician trained in laser modalities.

### **Licensure under Grandfather Provisions Ends December 1, 2014**

Individuals who do not meet the minimum qualifications for the Assistant Laser Practitioner license can qualify for the license under the law's "grandfather provision" if they have at least 2,000 hours of experience in administering cosmetic laser services, have received at least two laser certificates from laser/intense pulsed light courses taught directly by licensed physicians or certified continuing education educators. Applicants for licensure under the grandfather provision must apply by December 1, 2014, and are urged to contact the Board immediately by email at [lasers@dch.ga.gov](mailto:lasers@dch.ga.gov).

### **Advisory Committee**

The Cosmetic Laser Services Advisory Committee, once constituted and seated, will work with the Board to develop rules, regulations, and application materials for both levels of licensure. Committee members must be eligible for licensure as cosmetic laser services practitioners. The Board is seeking candidates who are licensed specialists and professionals to serve on the committee, including dermatologists, plastic surgeons, physician assistants, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, master cosmetologists, and licensed estheticians. Individuals who are interested in serving on the committee should contact the Board at [lasers@dch.ga.gov](mailto:lasers@dch.ga.gov), by fax at (770) 357-1885, or by mail addressed to Cosmetic Laser Services (GCMB), 2 Peachtree Street NW, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

# Important Notice:

## Cosmetic Laser Services Licensure

***On February 26, 2014, Governor Nathan Deal signed the House Bill 743 (the General Appropriations Act),*** which authorized the Board to begin licensing cosmetic laser practitioners. There are two levels of licensure for this profession: assistant laser practitioner and senior laser practitioner. The Cosmetic Laser Services Act (O.C.G.A. § 43-34-244) specifies the qualifications for each of these levels.

If you do not meet the qualifications for the assistant laser practitioner license, and plan to apply for licensure under the law's grandfather clause, you must apply before December 1, 2014.

Rules for assistant laser and senior laser practitioners are still under consideration and will be posted to our website for review and comments.

As soon as the application materials have been approved, information will be sent to you.

If you are interested in applying for licensure as an assistant laser practitioner and/or senior laser practitioner please return this form by email or regular mail to the contact information below. If you are applying under the grandfather provision, you should provide your information to the Board as soon as possible.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:

Cosmetic Laser Services  
2 Peachtree Street NW, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
[lasers@dch.ga.gov](mailto:lasers@dch.ga.gov)

## **Cosmetic Laser Services Advisory Committee**

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is recruiting a Cosmetic Laser Services Advisory Committee. The Committee will be responsible for making recommendations in the development of rules, regulations and applications to the Board for cosmetic laser practitioners. To qualify, you must be currently practicing in this area as a cosmetic laser practitioner.

### **The Board is recruiting candidates from the following specialties:**

Licensed Dermatologist or Plastic Surgeon

Licensed Esthetician

Master Cosmetologist

Physician Assistant

Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, or Nurse Practitioner

If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please send your CV or resume to the Medical Board no later than May 15, 2014 by email, facsimile, or regular mail to:

**Cosmetic Laser Services  
Georgia Composite Medical Board  
2 Peachtree Street NW, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303**

**email: [lasers@dch.ga.gov](mailto:lasers@dch.ga.gov)**

**Fax: (770) 357-1885**