

2024 FSMB BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporation shall be known as the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. ("FSMB").

ARTICLE II. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP, Nomination AND MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS

SECTION A. MEMBER MEDICAL BOARDS

The term "Member Medical Board" as used in the Articles of Incorporation and in these Bylaws shall refer to any board, committee or other group in any state, territory, the District of Columbia or possession of the United States of America that is empowered by law to pass on the qualifications of applicants for licensure to practice allopathic or osteopathic medicine or to discipline such licensees. If a state or other jurisdiction has more than one such entity and if each is an independent agency unrelated to the others, each is eligible for membership. Any eligible Medical Board may become a Member Medical Board upon approval of its application by the Board of Directors.

SECTION B. FELLOWS

There shall be two categories of Fellow of the FSMB:

1. BOARD MEMBER FELLOW. A Board Member Fellow is an individual member who as a result of appointment or confirmation is designated to be a member of a Member Medical Board. A Board Member Fellow shall be a Fellow of the FSMB during the member's period of service on a Member Medical Board, and for a period of thirty-six months thereafter, and
2. STAFF FELLOW. A Staff Fellow is an individual hired or appointed and who is responsible for the day-to-day supervision and performance of the administrative duties and functions for which a medical board is responsible. Each member board may denote only one individual to serve as a Staff Fellow of the FSMB. No individual shall continue as a Staff Fellow upon termination of employment by or service to the Member Medical Board.

SECTION C. HONORARY FELLOWS

A Board Member Fellow as defined in Section B, paragraph 1 shall become an Honorary Fellow of the FSMB thirty-six months after completion of service on a Member Medical Board. A Staff Fellow as defined in Section B, paragraph 2 shall become an Honorary Fellow of the FSMB upon

termination of employment by or service to the Member Medical Board. An Honorary Fellow of the FSMB may be appointed by the Chair to serve as a member of any committee or in any other appointive capacity.

SECTION D. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A Member Medical Board may designate one or more employees or staff members, other than an individual designated as a Staff Fellow, to be an Associate Member of the FSMB. No individual shall continue as an Associate Member upon termination of employment by or service to the Member Medical Board.

SECTION E. OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

An organization may apply for Official Observer status at meetings of the House of Delegates. The Board of Directors shall prescribe rules and procedures to govern the application for, the granting of and the exercise of Official Observer status.

SECTION F. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, rights, duties, privileges and obligations of a member of the FSMB may be exercised only by a Member Medical Board.

SECTION G. METHODS OF NOMINATION TO ELECTED OFFICE OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nomination by the Nominating Committee or Nomination by Petition pursuant to Articles III, IV, V and VIII shall be the sole methods of nomination to an elected office or the Board of Directors of the FSMB. A candidate who runs for and is not elected to an elected office shall be ineligible to be nominated for any other elected office during the same election cycle.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS: ELECTION AND DUTIES

SECTION A. OFFICERS OF THE FSMB

1. OFFICERS. The officers of the FSMB shall be that of Chair, Chair-elect, Immediate Past Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.
2. Only an individual who is a Fellow as defined in Article II, Section B, paragraph 1 at the time of the individual's election or appointment shall be eligible for election or appointment as an Officer of the FSMB, except for the position of Secretary.
3. The position of Secretary shall be an ex-officio office, without vote, and the President of the FSMB shall serve as Secretary.

SECTION B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The Chair-elect shall ascend to the position of Chair at the Annual Meeting following the meeting in which the Chair-elect was elected.
2. The Chair-elect shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.
3. The Immediate Past Chair assumes that position upon the Chair-elect ascending to the position of Chair.
4. The Treasurer shall be elected every third year at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.
5. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the members of the House of Delegates present and voting.
6. In any election, should no candidate receive a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates who receive the most votes for that office on the first ballot. Up to two additional runoff elections shall be held.
7. Prior to each election, the presiding officer shall cast a sealed vote that shall be counted only to resolve a tie that cannot be decided by the process set forth in this section.

SECTION C. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The duties of the Chair shall be as follows:
 - a. Preside at all meetings and sessions of the House of Delegates and the Board of Directors;
 - b. Perform the duties customary to the office of the Chair;
 - c. Make appointments to committees and define duties of committee members in accordance with these Bylaws, except as otherwise provided herein;
 - d. Serve, ex officio, on all committees except as otherwise provided herein; and
 - e. Exercise such other rights and customs as the Bylaws and parliamentary usage may require or as the FSMB or the Board of Directors shall deem appropriate.
2. The duties of the Chair-elect shall be as follows:
 - a. Assist the Chair in the discharge of the Chair's duties; and
 - b. Perform the duties of the Chair at the Chair's request or, in the event of the Chair's temporary absence or incapacitation, at the request of the Board of Directors.

3. The duties of the Immediate Past Chair shall be as follows:
 - a. Assist the Chair in the transition from Chair-elect to Chair;
 - b. Serve as chair of the Nominating Committee; and
 - c. Perform such other duties and responsibilities as the Chair shall determine.
4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:
 - a. Perform the duties customary to that office;
 - b. Perform such other duties as the Bylaws and custom and parliamentary usage may require or as the Board of Directors shall deem appropriate;
 - c. Serve as an ex officio member of the Audit Committee; and
 - d. Serve as chair of the Finance Committee.
5. The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:
 - a. Administer the affairs of the FSMB; and
 - b. Such duties and responsibilities as the FSMB and the Board of Directors shall determine.

SECTION D. TERMS OF OFFICE AND SUCCESSION

1. The Chair and Chair-elect shall serve for single terms of one year or until their successors assume office.
2. The Immediate Past Chair shall serve until a successor to the current Chair assumes office.
3. The Treasurer shall serve for a single term of three years or until the Treasurer's successor assumes the office.
4. Officers shall assume office upon final adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates at which they were elected.
5. The term of the Secretary is co-terminus with that of the President of the FSMB.

SECTION E. VACANCIES

1. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair, the Chair-elect shall assume the position of Chair for the remainder of the unexpired term, and shall then serve a full one-year term as Chair.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair-elect, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Director-at-Large to assume the duties, but not the office, of Chair-elect for the remainder of

the unexpired term. At the next Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates, both a Chair and a Chair-elect shall be elected in accordance with the provisions in Section B of this Article.

3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Immediate Past Chair, the office shall remain open until a new Chair assumes the office.
4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Treasurer, the Board of Directors shall elect one of the Directors-at-Large to serve as Treasurer, with one vote on the Board of Directors and one vote on the Executive Committee, until the next year's Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates, at which time a Treasurer shall be elected.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION A. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS

1. MEMBERSHIP: The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Officers, nine Directors-at-Large and two Staff Fellows. At least three members of the Board, who are not Staff Fellows, shall be non-physicians, at least two of whom shall be a Member Medical Board public member.
2. NOMINATION OF STAFF FELLOWS: Nominations for Staff Fellow positions shall be accepted from Member Boards, the Board of Directors and the Administrators in Medicine. Staff Fellows shall be appointed by the Board of Directors in staggered terms in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors.
3. TERMS: Directors-at-Large shall each serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible to be reelected to one additional term. Staff Fellows shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible to be reappointed to one additional term. A partial term totaling one-and-a-half years or more shall count as a full term.

SECTION B. NOMINATIONS

1. The Nominating Committee shall submit a roster of one or more candidates for each of the offices and positions to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.
2. The Nominating Committee shall mail its roster of candidates to Member Boards not fewer than sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

SECTION C. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

1. At least three of the Directors-at-Large shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates by a majority of the votes cast.
2. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, and one seat is to be filled, a

runoff election shall be held between the two candidates who received the most votes on the first ballot.

3. If more than one seat is to be filled from a single list of candidates, and if one or more seats are not filled by majority vote on the first ballot, a runoff election shall be held, with the ballot listing candidates equal in number to twice the number of seats remaining to be filled. These candidates shall be those remaining who received the most votes on the first ballot. The same procedure shall be used for any required subsequent runoff elections. In the event of a tie vote in a runoff election up to two additional runoff elections shall be held.
4. Prior to the election, the presiding officer shall cast a sealed vote, ranking each candidate in a list. The presiding officer's vote is counted for the candidate in the runoff election who is highest on the list. The presiding officer's vote is counted only to resolve a tie that cannot be decided by the process set forth in this section.
5. Directors shall assume office upon final adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates at which they were elected.
6. Only an individual who is a Board Member Fellow at the time of the individual's election shall be eligible for election as a Director of the FSMB.

SECTION D. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The control and administration of the FSMB is vested in the Board of Directors and it shall act for the FSMB between Annual Meetings.
2. The Board of Directors shall carry out the mandates of the FSMB as established by the House of Delegates, and it shall have full and complete authority to perform all acts and to transact all business for and on behalf of the FSMB.
3. The Board of Directors shall conduct and manage all property, affairs, work and activities of the FSMB, subject only to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws and to resolutions and enactments of the House of Delegates.
4. The Board of Directors shall be the fiscal agent of the FSMB.
5. The Board of Directors shall establish rules for its operations and meetings.
6. The FSMB shall indemnify Directors, Officers and other individuals acting on behalf of the FSMB if such indemnification is in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska and the operational policies and procedures of the Board of Directors, as adopted. The Board shall

report to the membership of the FSMB at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

7. The Board of Directors shall establish a strategic plan for the FSMB that states the FSMB mission and objectives and shall submit that plan to the House of Delegates for ratification, modification or rejection. The Board shall review the current strategic plan annually and propose any amendments to the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates for ratification, modification or rejection. The FSMB President shall report to the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates on the extent to which the FSMB's stated objectives have been accomplished in the preceding year.

SECTION E. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

1. **REMOVAL:** Any officer or member of the Board of Directors may be removed for any cause deemed sufficient by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total members of the Board of Directors entitled to vote and who are not subject to removal from office.
2. **PROCEDURE:** The procedure for removal shall be as follows:
 - a. The Board shall file with the Secretary of the Board and deliver a written statement of the cause for removal to the officer or board member in sufficient detail as to state the grounds for the removal. Delivery to the officer or board member shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address known to the Board.
 - b. The officer or board member shall deliver a sworn written response to the Board no later than thirty calendar days after the written statement of the cause for removal is delivered to the officer or board member in question. Delivery to the Board shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, directed to the Secretary of the Board at the FSMB corporate office.
 - c. At the Board meeting following the date the response is due, the Board shall determine whether or not to proceed with removal. Notice of the Board's action shall be delivered to the officer or board member by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the officer or board member does not file a written response, the Board shall proceed with a determination.
 - d. If the Board votes to proceed with removal of the officer or board member, at a Board meeting the board member shall be afforded the opportunity to address the Board on the merits of the allegations and produce any relevant information to the Board after which the Board shall make a determination. The Board meeting at which the officer or board member has the opportunity to address the Board shall be held no less than thirty days after delivery

of the notice of removal.

3. **APPEAL:** Any officer or member of the Board of Directors removed by the Board of Directors may appeal to the House of Delegates at its next business meeting. The officer or member may be reinstated by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates.
4. **DELIVERY:** For the purposes of this section, "Delivery" is effective upon mailing.

SECTION F. VACANCIES

1. **DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:** In the event of a vacancy in the membership of the Directors-at-Large, the Board of Directors may appoint a Fellow who meets the qualifications for the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the House of Delegates, at which time a Fellow shall be elected and shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event a Director-at-Large is elected to the office of Treasurer or Chair-elect, that vacancy shall be filled by an election at the same annual meeting of the House of Delegates.
2. **STAFF FELLOWS:** In the event of a vacancy of a Staff Fellow, the Board of Directors may appoint a substitute to complete the Staff Fellow's term in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors.

SECTION G. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Board of Directors shall establish an Executive Committee of the Board, which shall consist of the Chair as Chair, Chair-elect, Treasurer, Immediate Past Chair and three Directors-at-Large. The Directors-at-Large shall be elected for a one-year term by majority vote of the Directors-at-Large and the Staff Fellows serving on the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of the House of Delegates. In the event of a vacancy in a Director-at-Large position, the Directors-at-Large and the Staff Fellows serving on the Board, by majority vote, shall choose another Director-at-Large to serve the remainder of the one-year term. A Staff Fellow may serve in one of the Director-at-Large positions. No more than one Staff Fellow may serve on the Executive Committee at any one time. In the event of vacancy in the position of Immediate Past Chair, this position shall remain vacant until the next annual meeting of the House of Delegates.
2. **DUTIES:** In intervals between Board meetings, the Executive Committee shall act for and on behalf of the Board in any matters that require prompt attention. It shall not modify actions previously taken by the Board unless additional information or a change of circumstances is presented and warrants additional action.

3. MEETINGS: The Executive Committee may meet as often as it deems necessary or appropriate, either in person, telephonically, electronically or by unanimous written consent, and at such times and places and manner as the Chair may determine. Minutes must be kept of all meetings.
4. REPORTING: The Executive Committee shall report in writing all formal actions taken by it to the Board of Directors within five working days of taking those actions. At each meeting of the Board, the Executive Committee shall present to the Board a written report of all its formal actions since the previous meeting of the Board.

SECTION H. PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENTS

A “public policy” is defined as the official public position of the FSMB on a matter that may be reasonably expected to affect Member Boards when dealing with their licensees, other health care providers, health-related special interest groups, governmental bodies or the public. The House of Delegates is the official public policy-making body of the FSMB. When the interests of the FSMB require more immediate action, the Board of Directors, or the President in consultation with the Chair, if feasible, is authorized to issue statements on matters of public policy between Annual Meetings.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATION BY PETITION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION A. SUBMISSION OF A PETITION

1. At the time the Nominating Committee’s roster of candidates is distributed to the Member Boards, the Boards will be informed that a Fellow who is qualified for nomination, but not otherwise nominated by the Nominating Committee, may seek to run for a position on the Board of Directors as an Officer or Director-at-Large, or for a position on the Nominating Committee.
2. In order to be placed on the ballot, the Fellow seeking nomination is required to present a petition to Administrative Staff that is signed by at least one Fellow from at least four Member Boards as well as a fellow from the Board of the member seeking nomination.
3. The deadline to submit petitions to the Administrative Staff is twenty-one days prior to the Annual Meeting.

SECTION B. VALIDATION AND PLACEMENT ON BALLOT

1. The Administrative Staff shall verify that all signatures on the petition are valid. “Valid” is

defined as the person who is seeking nomination and the persons who signed the petition are Fellows as defined in the FSMB Bylaws.

2. Once verified, the petitions are deemed valid and the candidate is placed on the ballot.
3. The names of those seeking to run by petition whose petitions are deemed valid shall be distributed to the Voting Delegates not fewer than fourteen days prior to the Annual Meeting.
4. Once a candidate seeking to run by petition is added to the ballot, the candidate shall be afforded the same privileges and be bound by the same rules in the campaign process as candidates who were nominated by the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VI. PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds majority vote of the full Board, appoint a President of the FSMB, who shall be a physician, to serve without term. The President shall administer the affairs of the FSMB and shall have such duties and responsibilities as the Board of Directors and the FSMB shall direct. The President shall serve as Secretary of the FSMB and shall be an ex-officio member, without vote, of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

SECTION A. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The annual meeting of the House of Delegates of the FSMB, which shall be called the House of Delegates, shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given to all Member Medical Boards by mail not fewer than ninety days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice is effective upon mailing.

SECTION B. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Special meetings of the House of Delegates may be called at any time by the Chair, on the written request of ten Member Medical Boards or by action of the Board of Directors. Written notice of the time and place of such meetings shall be given to all Member Medical Boards by mail not fewer than thirty days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice is effective upon mailing.

SECTION C. RIGHT TO VOTE

1. The right to vote at meetings of the House of Delegates is vested in, and restricted to, Member Medical Boards. Each Member Medical Board is entitled to one vote, said vote to be cast by the delegate of the Member Board. The delegate shall be the president of the Member Medical

Board or the President's designated alternate. In order for a delegate to be permitted to vote, the delegate shall present a letter of appointment to the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

2. All classes of membership shall have the right of the floor at meetings of the House upon request of a delegate and approval of the presiding officer; however, the right to introduce resolutions is restricted to Member Medical Boards and the Board of Directors and the procedure for submission of such resolutions shall be in accordance with FSMB Policy.

SECTION D. QUORUM

A majority of Member Medical Boards shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the House of Delegates. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors or any committee or other constituted group shall constitute a quorum of the Board, committee or group.

SECTION E. RULES OF ORDER

Meetings of the House of Delegates, Board of Directors and all committees shall be conducted in accordance with the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*, current edition, except when in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, in which case the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws shall prevail.

ARTICLE VIII. STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECTION A. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees of the FSMB shall be:
 - a. Audit Committee
 - b. Bylaws Committee
 - c. Education Committee
 - d. Ethics and Professionalism Committee
 - e. Finance Committee
 - f. Journal Oversight Committee
 - g. Nominating Committee
6. ADDITIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES. Additional standing committees may be created by resolution of the FSMB and/or amendment to the Bylaws. Chairs and members of all standing committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed by the Chair, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for a term of one year, unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. Reappointment, unless specifically prohibited, is permissible.

7. MEMBERSHIP. Honorary Fellows and Associate Members may be appointed by the Chair to serve on a standing committee in addition to the number of committeemembers called for in the following sections of this chapter. No more than one Honorary Fellow, Associate Member or non-member subject matter expert may be appointed by the Chair to serve in such a capacity on any standing committee unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. All committee members shall serve with vote. Honorary Fellows, Associate Members and non-members appointed to standing committees by the Chair shall serve for a term concurrent with the term of the Chair. No individual shall serve on more than one standing committee except as specified in the Bylaws. With the exception of the Nominating Committee and the Journal Oversight Committee, the Chair and the Chair-elect shall serve, ex-officio, on all committees.
8. VACANCIES. In the event a vacancy occurs in an elected position on a standing committee, the Chair, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a Fellow to serve on the committee until the next meeting of the House of Delegates, at which time an election will be held to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event a vacancy occurs in an appointed position on a standing committee, the Chair, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a Fellow to serve on the committee for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event the Chairmanship of the Nominating Committee becomes vacant, the FSMB Chair, with the approval of the FSMB Board of Directors, shall appoint a Past Chair of the FSMB Board of Directors to serve in that capacity for the remainder of the unexpired term.

SECTION B. AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee shall:

1. Be composed of five Fellows, three of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer of the FSMB shall serve ex-officio without vote. The Chair of the FSMB shall appoint the Chair of the Audit Committee from one of the three sitting Board Members.
2. Ensure that an annual audit of the financial accounts and records of the FSMB is performed by an independent Certified Public Accounting firm.
3. Recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment, retention or termination of an independent auditor or auditors and develop a schedule for periodic solicitation of audit firms consistent with Board policies and best practices.
4. Oversee the independent auditors. The independent auditors shall report directly to the Committee.

5. Review the audit of the FSMB. Submit such audit and Committee's report to the Board of Directors.
6. Report any suggestions to the Board of Directors on fiscal policy to ensure the continuing financial strength of the FSMB.
7. When the finalized committee report to the Board of Directors is made, suggestions and feedback will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

SECTION C. BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws Committee, composed of five Fellows, shall continually assess the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws and shall receive all proposals for amendments thereto. It shall, from time to time, make recommendations to the House of Delegates for changes, deletions, modifications and interpretations thereto.

SECTION D. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee shall be composed of eight Fellows, to include the Chair as chair, the Immediate Past Chair and the Chair-elect. The Committee shall be responsible for assisting in the development of educational programs for the FSMB.

SECTION E. ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM COMMITTEE

The Ethics and Professionalism Committee shall be composed of up to eight Fellows and up to two subject matter experts. The Ethics and Professionalism Committee shall address ethical and professional issues pertinent to medical regulation.

SECTION F. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall be composed of five Fellows, to include the Treasurer as Chair. The Finance Committee shall review the financial condition of the FSMB, review and evaluate the costs of the activities and programs to be undertaken in the forthcoming year, present a budget for the FSMB to the Board of Directors for its recommendation to the House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting and perform such other duties as are assigned to it by the Board of Directors. Except for the Treasurer, no Fellow shall serve on both the Audit and Finance Committees.

SECTION G. JOURNAL OF MEDICAL REGULATION

1. The Board of Directors shall provide for the publication of the *Journal of Medical Regulation* to further scholarship on issues of medical regulation and public protection.

2. A Journal Oversight Committee consisting of three (3) members of the Board of Directors and four (4) other individuals shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Directors shall serve for a term determined by policies of the Board of Directors. Committee members who are not Directors shall serve staggered three-year terms and be limited to two full terms. The Journal Oversight Committee shall develop the annual budget for the *Journal of Medical Regulation* and ensure the editorial independence of the *Journal of Medical Regulation*.
3. An Editorial Board, not to exceed four (4) Fellows and five (5) non-Fellows, shall be responsible for subject matter and editorial content of the *Journal of Medical Regulation*. Members shall be selected and serve terms set forth in a process approved by the Journal Oversight Committee. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall serve on the Editorial Board.

SECTION H. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: PROCESS FOR ELECTION

1. MEMBERSHIP: The Nominating Committee shall be composed of six Fellows and the Immediate Past Chair, who shall chair the Committee and serve without vote except in the event of a tie. Only an individual who is a Board Member Fellow at the time of the individual's election shall be eligible for election as a member of the Nominating Committee. With the exception of the Immediate Past Chair, no two Committee members shall be from the same member board and no officer or member of the Board of Directors shall serve on the Committee. A member of the Nominating Committee may not serve consecutive terms.
2. ELECTION: At least three Fellows shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates by a plurality of votes cast, each to serve for a term of two years. In the event of a tie vote in a runoff election, up to two additional runoff elections shall be held. Prior to the election, the presiding officer shall cast a sealed vote, ranking each candidate in a list. The presiding officer's vote is counted for the candidate in the runoff election who is highest on the list. The presiding officer's vote is counted only to resolve a tie that cannot be decided by the process set forth in this section.
3. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for inclusion on the roster of candidates for offices and positions to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

SECTION I. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees may be appointed by the Chair, from time to time, as may be necessary for a specific purpose.

SECTION J. REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES

Appointment of all representatives of the FSMB to other official organizations or entities shall be made or nominated by the Chair, with the approval of the Board of Directors, as applicable, and shall serve for a term of three years unless the other organization shall specify some other term of appointment. Representatives to these organizations shall be Fellows, Honorary Fellows or Associate Members at the time of their appointment or nomination.

ARTICLE IX. UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION (USMLE)

SECTION A. Except as otherwise set forth in this Article, the composition of committees and subcommittees for the USMLE are subject to agreements with and the advice and consent of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and/or the USMLE Composite Committee. The Chair, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall make appointments to the following USMLE committees in appropriate numbers and at appropriate times as required by the FSMB/NBME Agreement establishing the USMLE and by other agreements as may apply:

1. USMLE Composite Committee, which shall be responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of policies governing the three-step USMLE. The President shall be one of the FSMB's representatives on this Committee.
2. USMLE Budget Committee, which shall be responsible for the development and monitoring of USMLE revenues and expenses, including the establishment of fees. FSMB representatives on the Committee will be the Chair, Chair-elect, Treasurer, President and the senior FSMB financial staff member.
3. The USMLE Management Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the design, development, scoring and standard setting for the USMLE Step examinations, subject to policies established by and reporting to the USMLE Composite Committee. Appointments to the Management Committee shall be made consistent with the FSMB/NBME Agreement Establishing the USMLE.

SECTION B.

The President shall provide FSMB advice and consent to the NBME for NBME's appointments to the USMLE Management Committee and/or any appointments made jointly under the FSMB/NBME Agreement Establishing the USMLE.

ARTICLE X. POST-LICENSURE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The Post-Licensure Assessment Governing Committee shall be responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of policies governing the Post-Licensure Assessment System (PLAS) established by joint agreement between FSMB and NBME. The Chair, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall make appointments to the Post-Licensure Assessment Governing Committee and its program committees in appropriate numbers and at appropriate times as required by the FSMB/NBME joint agreement establishing the Post-Licensure Assessment System and by other agreements as may apply.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES AND DUES

SECTION A. SOURCES OF FUNDS

Funds necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the FSMB shall be derived from but not be limited to:

1. Annual dues imposed on the Member Medical Boards and Official Observers;
2. Special assessments established by the House of Delegates;
3. Voluntary contributions, devices, bequests and other gifts;
4. Fees charged for examination services, database services, credentials verification services and publications.

SECTION B. ANNUAL DUES, ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS A DELEGATE

The annual dues for Member Medical Boards shall be established, from time to time, by a majority vote of the House of Delegates.

1. Annual dues for Member Medical Boards shall be the same for all Members regardless of their physician populations. Annual dues are due and payable not later than January 1.
2. Any Member Medical Board whose dues are in default at the time of the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates shall be ineligible to have a seated delegate.

ARTICLE XII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

SECTION A. MEMBER

For the purposes of this Article, a member shall be defined as a Member Medical Board, a Fellow, an Honorary Fellow, an Associate Member, or Official Observer.

SECTION B. AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Directors, on behalf of the House of Delegates, may enforce disciplinary measures, including expulsion, suspension, censure and reprimand, and impose terms and conditions of probation or such sanctions as it may deem appropriate, for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure of the member to comply or act in accordance with these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation of the FSMB, or other duly adopted rules or regulations of the FSMB;
2. Failure of the member to comply with any contract or agreement between the FSMB and such member or with any contract or agreement of the FSMB that binds such member;
3. Failure of the member to maintain confidentiality or security, or the permitting of conditions that allow a breach of confidentiality or security, in any manner dealing with the licensing examination process or the confidentiality of FSMB records, including the storage, administration, grading or reporting of examinations and information relating to the examination process; or
4. The imposition of a sanction, judgment, disciplinary penalty or other similar action by a Member Medical Board that licenses the member or by a state or federal court, or other competent tribunal, whether or not related to the practice of medicine and including conduct as a member of a Member Medical Board.

SECTION C. PROCEDURE

1. Any member alleged to have acted in such manner as to be subject to disciplinary action shall be accorded, at a minimum, the procedural protection set forth in the Manual for Disciplinary Procedures, which is available from the FSMB upon the written request of any member.
2. In event of a decision to expel a Member Medical Board pursuant to Section B, the House of Delegates shall ratify the decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting, or at an earlier meeting specially called for by the Chair in accordance with Article VII, Section B.

SECTION D. REINSTATEMENT

In the event a member is expelled from the FSMB, the member may apply to the President for reinstatement after one year following final action on expulsion. The President shall review the application and the reason for the expulsion and forward a report to the Board. The Board may accept the application for reinstatement under such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate, reject the application or request further information from the President. The Board's decision to accept or reject an application is final.

ARTICLE XIII. CORPORATE SEAL

The Board of Directors shall adopt a corporate seal that meets the requirements of the state in which the FSMB is incorporated.

ARTICLE XIV. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS, EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION A. AMENDMENT

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the House of Delegates by two-thirds of those present and voting. Bylaws changes may be proposed only by the Board of Directors, Member Medical Boards or the Bylaws Committee and its members. All such proposals must be submitted in writing to the Bylaws Committee, in care of the Secretary of the FSMB. The Bylaws Committee shall inform the Member Medical Boards of its meeting dates not fewer than sixty days in advance of the meeting. The recommendations of the Bylaws Committee and the full texts of all proposed amendments recommended to the Committee shall be sent to each Member Medical Board not fewer than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates at which they are to be considered.

SECTION B. EFFECTIVE DATE

These Bylaws and any other subsequent amendments thereto, shall become effective upon their adoption, except as otherwise provided in the amendment.

Bylaws last amended in April 2024