

Arkansas State Medical Board



In 1903, the Arkansas legislature passed the state's first Medical Practice Act. The act created three boards of examiners, known as the State Medical Board of the Arkansas Medical Society, Homeopathic State Medical Board and Eclectic State Medical Board. [Minutes of a November 1909 meeting](#) of the State Medical Board of the Arkansas Medical Society reveal 18 “applicants passed a satisfactory examination and were granted a certificate.” Also nine “applicants having failed to make the required general average of 75%, the Board refused to grant a certificate.”

In 1955, the Arkansas State Medical Board was established and empowered to license and regulate the practice of medicine. According to the [minutes of the Arkansas State Medical Board's first meeting on March 17, 1955](#), officers were elected, examination subjects were assigned to members and a motion carried that “the three former boards be asked to turn all records and property over to the new Secretary of the Arkansas Medical Board.”

In 1971, the Arkansas State Medical Board assumed the licensing and regulatory duties of the Arkansas Osteopathic Board, which was abolished. Since then, the board has assumed licensing and regulatory responsibilities for other health care professions, including occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, physician assistants and radiologist assistants. The board consists of 14 members, including 10 physicians, one osteopathic physician, one member appointed upon the recommendation of the Physicians' Section of the Arkansas Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association and two citizen members – one representing consumers and one who is 60 years of age or older representing the elderly.

In 1995, the legislature passed the Act 1066, which created the Arkansas State Medical Board's Centralized Credentials Verification Service (CCVS). Arkansas was the first state in the nation to base a CCVS within its licensing agency. State law allows the Arkansas State Medical Board to release, with a practitioner's written authorization, verification of credentials as needed by credentialing/health care organizations.