

Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine



In 1927 as the state dealt with the ill effects of the great Florida land-grab and subsequent crash, the Florida legislature created the Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. The six-member board was charged with the oversight of osteopathic physicians including examination of applicants and issuance of medical licenses. Initial license and renewal fees were \$1. In 1951, the fee increased to \$55.

The board was assigned to the Division of Professions within the newly created Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation in 1969. Three years later, the board was authorized to issue licenses by endorsement to licensed "out of state" physicians under certain conditions. Physician assistants were regulated in 1972 and authorized to work under the supervision of an osteopathic physician.

In 1979 following a comprehensive review of the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, the composition of the board was changed to include five physicians and two lay members. In 1988 in response to a medical malpractice crisis, the legislature created the Division of Medical Quality Assurance to concentrate resources for the identification and discipline of unsafe professionals. The new division was tasked with the oversight of all regulatory boards that licensed health professionals.

The Florida Department of Health was created in 1996 and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine was assigned to the DOH one year later. While much has changed over the past 84 years, the founding premise of protecting the safety of the people of Florida through regulation has remained. Former Board Chair [James Andriole, D.O.](#), currently serves as Treasurer on the FSMB's Board of Directors.