

Iowa Board of Medicine

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE

In 1886 after 15 years of construction, the Iowa state capitol building opened in Des Moines, Iowa, with a 275-foot high dome coated in a thin sheet of pure 23-karat gold. That same year, the state legislature enacted a law requiring all persons practicing medicine or surgery in the state of Iowa to procure a certificate from the State Board of Examiners.

Three kinds of certificates were issued including certificates to those holding diplomas from medical colleges in good standing, certificates to those who had practiced medicine in the state for five years prior to the passage of the act, three years of which were in one locality, and certificates to those who passed a satisfactory examination before the board.

In 1907, the legislature created the Board of Osteopathic Examiners, which administered the licensing of osteopathic physicians who graduated from osteopathic medical schools with a degree of doctor of osteopathic medicine. These boards worked separately until 1963 when they were merged into the Board of Medical Examiners.

In 1994, the board assumed responsibility for registering acupuncturists, and subsequently the licensure and regulation of acupuncturists. In 1996, the legislature authorized the board to establish the Iowa Physician Health Committee. The committee administers the Iowa Physician Health Program to offer support for physicians with mental health issues, physical disability, or drug and alcohol problems.

In 2007, the legislature changed the board's name to the Board of Medicine. The board is composed of 10 members: five practicing M.D.s, two practicing D.O.s, and three members of the public. State law requires that five members be male and five be female, and no more than five members may be affiliated with the same political party.

In 2011, the Iowa Board of Medicine [celebrated its 125th anniversary](#) with [several special events](#), including a [ceremony in Old Capitol in Iowa City](#), [Tammy McGee](#) represented the FSMB Board of Directors and presented the Iowa board with a [framed proclamation](#) honoring their service to the citizens of Iowa.

Two Iowa board members have served as FSMB president: [Frank M. Fuller, M.D.](#) (1943-33) and [Hormoz Rassekh, M.D.](#) (1993-94).

Source: Iowa Register and http://www.state.ia.us/ibme/about_the_board/overview.html