

Montana Board of Medical Examiners



In 1889, the same year Montana joined the United States, the Montana legislature passed a statute creating the State Board of Medical Doctors, the forerunner of the current [Montana Board of Medical Examiners](#). In 1969, the Medical Practice Act was enacted, providing for a comprehensive revision of the board's statutory powers, duties and responsibilities. Two years later, as a result of the Executive Reorganization Act of 1971, the board was changed from an independent state agency to a board within the Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing.

The first meeting of the Montana State Board of Osteopathic Examiners was held in Helena, Montana on June 13, 1901. Montana did not give osteopaths full practice rights until 1971. Doctors of Osteopathy are now members of the Board of Medical Examiners.

The board is currently under the Department of Labor and Industry's Business Standards Division and is responsible for licensure of doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, nutritionists, podiatrists, acupuncturists, physician assistants and emergency medical technicians. The board was responsible for licensing physical therapists until 1979 when the legislature created the Board of Physical Therapists to assume this responsibility.

The current Montana Board of Medical Examiners consists of 12 members appointed by the governor with the consent of the Montana Senate. Five members have the degree of doctor of medicine, including one member with experience in emergency medicine. The other seven members include a doctor of osteopathy, a licensed podiatrist, a licensed nutritionist, a licensed physician assistant, a volunteer emergency medical technician and two members of the general public who are not medical practitioners.