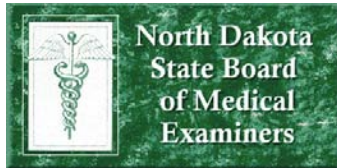


North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners



In 1869, the Dakota Territory government passed a law requiring a person practicing medicine in the territory to be a graduate from a school of medicine. Applicants had to have completed two full courses of instruction from an out-of-state institution, previously practiced medicine in another state or been a medical practitioner for at least 10 years; and be of good moral character. In 1885, the Superintendent of Public Health was given the responsibility of registering physicians practicing medicine in the Dakota Territory.

In 1889, North and South Dakota were admitted to the union as the 39th and 40th states, respectively. The following year the [North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners](#) was established to regulate the practice of medicine in the state. The board consisted of nine members including one homeopathic physician, one lawyer and seven doctors of medicine. The board was authorized to revoke licenses in cases involving improper conduct. In 1905, a penalty for practicing medicine without a license was added. In 1911, the board composition was changed to two homeopathic physicians and seven doctors of medicine.

In 1909, the state legislature created a State Board of Osteopathic Examiners, consisting of three osteopaths, to give examinations and license osteopathic physicians. The board was abolished in 1969 and responsibility for regulation of the field of osteopathy was given to the State Board of Medical Examiners. Board membership was increased to 10, including one doctor of osteopathy and nine doctors of medicine.

In 1993, a public member was added to the board for the first time. Membership consisted of eight doctors of medicine, one osteopathic physician and one public member. With the addition of a second public member in 1999, the board expanded to 11 members. In 2005, the board expanded again to include nine doctors of medicine, one osteopathic physician and two public members.

The board regulates the medical profession through examination, licensing, continuing education requirements and disciplinary action. It determines the education, residential training and character requirements of candidates seeking a license to practice medicine in North Dakota. The board also issues and records licenses to all applicants who qualify as doctors.

Among the notable leaders from North Dakota is board member G.M. Williamson, M.D., who served as FSMB president from 1933 to 1934.