

## Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners



In 1859, the first major U.S. silver discovery near Virginia City, Nevada created tremendous excitement and soon generated immense fortunes in and around the state. It took another 40 years before the state legislature enacted its first [Medical Practice Act](#), which created the [Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners](#).

The [first license](#) was granted in 1899 to W.J. Hood, M.D. [In 1976, Dr. Hood's sons, Drs. Arthur and Dwight Hood presented their father's license to the board for its archives.](#) Examples of exams given to applicants in the early 1900s include one on "[Bacteriology and Hygiene](#)" and another on the "[Practice of Medicine](#)."

The Medical Practice Act was modernized in 1949, an effort led by Dr. Fred Anderson and board counsel, Alan Bible who later became a longtime U.S. Senator from Nevada. Dr. Tom Scully, board president, led efforts to modernize the act a second time in 1985. The revision included three major advances still in effect today:

- Investigations are exempt from open meeting laws.
- Physician discipline can include participation in drug and alcohol programs, supervision of medical practice and imposition of additional training and community service.
- Three years of postgraduate medical training is required for licensure.

The board's authority has expanded over time. Physician assistants were added as licensees of the board in 1973. Respiratory therapists were added in 2001 and perfusionists were added in 2009.

Dr. Susan Buchwald became the board's first female president in 1996 and Mr. Arnie Rosencrantz became the board's first public-member president two years later. The FSMB awarded the Nevada board's Executive Director Larry Lessly its Distinguished Service Award in 2004 and Administrators in Medicine awarded the Nevada board's Chief of Investigations, Douglas C. Cooper its national Ronald K. Williamson Memorial Award for Board Investigators in 2007. In 2009, Mr. Cooper became the first certified board medical investigator to be named executive director of a state medical board.