

APA-1

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control: 540
Department or Agency: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Rule No.: 540-X-18-.03.01
Rule Title: Application For A Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate (QACSC)
Intended Action: Amend

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? No

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved? No

To what degree?: N/A

Is the increase in cost more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? NA

Are all facets of the rule-making process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed action relate to or affect in any manner any litigation which the agency is a party to concerning the subject matter of the proposed rule? No

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Services Agency.

Signature of certifying officer

William M. Perkins
William M Perkins

REC'D & FILED

Date

Monday, December 16, 2024 DEC 17, 2024

LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

RULE NO. & TITLE: 540-X-18-.03.01 Application For A Qualified Alabama  
Controlled Substances Registration Certificate (QACSC)

INTENDED ACTION: Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Amend health/fitness for duty questions.  
This amendment meets the "protection of public health" exemption from the moratorium on rule amendments contained in Governor Ivey's Executive Order No. 735, Reducing "Red Tape" on Citizens and Businesses.

TIME, PLACE AND MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

All interested persons may submit data, views, or arguments concerning the proposed new rule(s) and regulation(s) in writing to: Carla Kruger, Office of the General Counsel, Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 946, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0946, by mail or email (bme@albme.gov), until and including Feb. 4, 2025. Persons wishing to submit data, views, or comments in person should contact Carla Kruger by telephone (334-242-4116) during the comment period. Copies of proposed rules may be obtained at the Board's website, www.albme.gov.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Carla Kruger

*William M. Perkins*

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William M Perkins

(Signature of officer authorized  
to promulgate and adopt  
rules or his or her deputy)

540-X-18-.03.01

**Application For A Qualified Alabama  
Controlled Substances Registration  
Certificate (QACSC).**

An applicant for a Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate shall disclose whether:

(1) Applicant's privilege for prescribing controlled substances has ever been suspended, restricted, voluntarily surrendered while under investigation, revoked, or disciplined in any manner in any state or U.S. territory.

(2) Applicant has ever been arrested for, cited for, charged with, or convicted of any crime, offense, or violation of any law, felony, or misdemeanor, including, but not limited to, offenses related to professional healthcare practice, state or federal controlled substances laws, or driving under the influence (DUI). ~~convicted of any state or federal crime relating to any controlled substance.~~

(3) Any Federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration ever held by applicant has ever been suspended, restricted, revoked or voluntarily surrendered while under investigation.

(4) Applicant's privileges at any hospitals have ever been suspended, restricted, revoked, or disciplined in any manner for any reason related to the prescribing or administering of controlled substances.

(5) Applicant is currently ~~engaged~~ suffering from any condition that impairs their judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect their ability to practice in a competent, ethical, and professional manner.

(6) Within the past five years, the applicant has raised the issue of any physical or psychiatric health disorder as a defense, mitigation, or explanation for their actions during any administrative or judicial proceeding or investigation; any inquiry or other proceeding; or any proposed termination by an educational institution; employer; government agency; professional organization; or licensing authority. ~~the excessive use of alcohol, controlled substances, or the~~

(7) Applicant has attested to having read and understood this statement:

The Board recognizes that permittees encounter potentially impairing health conditions just as their patients and other health care providers do, including psychiatric or physical illnesses which may impact cognition, as well as substance use disorders. The Board expects its permittees to address their health concerns, both mental and ~~use of illegal drugs, or receiving any therapy or treatment for alcohol or drug use, sexual boundary issues or mental health issues.~~  
(a) If applicant is an anonymous participant, physical, in a timely manner to ensure patient safety. Permittees should seek appropriate medical care and should limit their practice when appropriate and as needed. The Board

encourages permittees to utilize the services of the Alabama Board of Nursing's Voluntary Disciplinary Alternative Program ~~and is in compliance with their assistance agreement, they may answer "No" to this question. Such answer for this purpose will not be deemed upon certification as providing false information to the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.~~

~~(b) The term "currently" as it is used in paragraph (5) above does not mean on the day of, or even in the weeks or months preceding the completion of the application. Rather, it means recently enough so that the condition referred to may have an ongoing impact on one's functioning as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner or Certified Nurse Midwife within the last two years.~~

~~(c) Applicant shall initial certifying an understanding of a statement of the duty as a registrant to address any such condition, which states as follows: IMPORTANT: The Board recognizes that registrants encounter health conditions, including those involving mental health and substance use disorders, just as their patients and other health care providers do. The Board expects its registrants to address their health concerns and ensure patient safety. Options include anonymously self-referring to the Alabama Board of Nursing's Voluntary Disciplinary Alternative Program (334-293-5200), an advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and wellness of nursing professionals in a confidential manner. The failure to adequately address a health condition, where the registrant is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, can result in the Board taking action against the QACSC (VDAP), an advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and wellness of nursing professionals. The failure to adequately address a health condition, where the permittee is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients, can result in the Board taking action against the Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate.~~

~~(6)~~ (8) Any disciplinary action has been taken or is pending against applicant with the Alabama Board of Nursing or any other licensing authority of any state, territory, or country.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§20-2-60, et seq.

**History: New Rule:** Publication December 30, 2022; effective February 13, 2023. **Amended:** Published December 29, 2023; effective February 12, 2024. Amended: Published \_\_\_\_\_ ; effective \_\_\_\_\_ .