

Academy Leader

Ohio Soon to Have Licensure for O & P, CPeds

*Dianne Farabi
Executive Director
Ohio Orthotics and Prosthetics Association*

As soon as Governor Taft signs Sub SB 238, Ohio will be among the seven states to have state licensure for orthotists, prosthetists and pedorthists. The bill is expected to be signed by the Governor by the end of July. As of this writing, SB 238 is one of many bills awaiting signature on the Governor's desk.

Ninety (90) days after the Governor signs the bill, it will become law, which means that the new law will likely take effect no later than November 1, 2000 (effective date). Once the bill is signed, a licensure board will be appointed by the Governor. The

new board will have approximately a year to put into place new regulations that implement all the provisions of the law. The regulations from the board must first be approved by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) before they take effect.

Steps for implementation have already begun as members of POLA, lobbyist, Paul Lee, and other participants have begun to develop the groundwork for setting up the O & P Licensure Board, identifying administrative needs and beginning to look at writing rules for the licensing.

State Board Will Direct Future of O & P in Ohio

The job facing members appointed to serve on the Board will be a very important responsibility and will impact the future of every practitioner in Ohio. The new board will have unilateral authority in writing the rules which will affect how orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthics will be practiced in Ohio. Setting of fees, procedures for filing of applications, standards and procedures for testing and evaluating will be among those areas set by the board. The board will also be charged with outlining procedures for the issuance,

In This Issue

Ohio Soon to Have Licensure for O & P, CPeds. (p. 1)

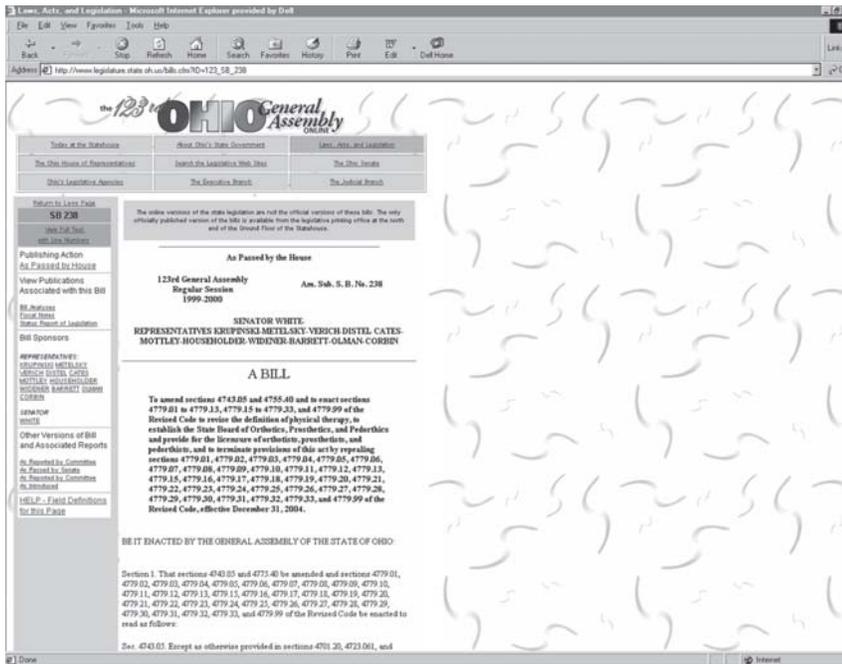
Licensure Rules Committee Being Formed (p. 6)

An Option for Supporting Patient Well-being: FORE HOPE (p. 4)

Spring/Fall Meetings: Back-to-Back Focus on Efficiency and Effectiveness (p. 6)

Ohio Chapter Spring Technical Meeting in Pictures (p. 5)

Fall Scientific Meeting Program (p. 7)



The revised version of Sub. SB 238 as passed by the House and Senate (including amendments), is available online at: www.legislature.state.oh.us/

renewal, suspension and revocation of licenses and the conduct of disciplinary hearings.

The seven-member board will be composed of one physician, two members who are orthotists or prosthetists, two members who are orthotists/prosthetists, one certified pedorthist and one person who is a consumer of orthotic or prosthetic services.

Once the bill becomes law, Governor Taft is required to appoint the board members from nominations which will be forwarded to his office. Normally, nominations are submitted through an association process which might include a primary and at least one alternate recommendation for each board position.

Members of the Board receive no compensation but will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred while attending meetings of the Board and in the performance of their duties.

Interested persons should submit letters of interest for serving on the board to:

Tracy Slemker, POLA President
c/o Dayton Artificial
Limb Clinic
7637 N. Main Street
Dayton OH 45415

The letter should be accompanied by a current resume and a brief explanation of the candidate's attributes and/or qualifications for

serving on the State Board. The letters of interest should be submitted no later than August 5, 2000

Rule-Making Committee Will Provide Input

Work will begin immediately to begin writing rules by the licensure board. Input for rules will be gathered from practitioners affected by licensure.

Anyone who is interested in serving on a Rule-Writing Committee or providing input to the rules should contact Tracy Slemker at the above address.

Background on SB 238's Passage

Although the bill had a considerably rockier road during its movement through the House side of the process, SB238's legislative process was very speedy. After passing the Senate in March, the bill won House approval May 17 and then went on to receive Senate concurrence before the legislature recessed for the summer. Many bills did not make the list for inclusion before the summer break.

A sunset amendment included in the bill was drafted in response to the concerns of Rep. Robert Corbin (R-Dayton) regarding financial feasibility of the board and the ability of a small group (O & P) to fund a state board. The sunset language calls for a review by the board after three years to determine the financial feasibility of continuing and gives the board an opportunity to demonstrate its effectiveness. If all is going well at that time, the sunset language will then be removed. If it is determined at that time that the Board is not

able to fund itself sufficiently, then it will cease to exist, and most likely, the responsibilities be moved to another state board.

Hearings held by the House Commerce and Labor Committee became fractious at times when several very vocal opponents repeatedly expressed concerns ranging from the O & P industry's ability to fund and operate the board and maintain financial viability, to the lack of "horror stories". One committee member, Representative Ron Hood (R-Canfield) seemed to be entrenched in anti-licensure philosophy from the outset of discussions.

Because Rep. Corbin's sunset amendment had not been drafted according to Rep. Corbin's direction at the time of the Committee vote, there were some nervous moments when the opposition committee members spoke up again questioning the need to create licensing. Momentum seemed to be moving in a negative direction.

Then one very ardent supporter, Rep. Metelsky (D-Lorain) spoke up and asked the committee members to "do the right thing" for the patients and keep the bill on track.

The committee voted to move the bill 14-2, with two dissenting votes from Rep. Ron Hood and Rep. Sally Kilbane (R-Cleveland). Rep. Bob Corbin (R-Dayton) had initially attacked the plausibility of creating a separate licensing board for orthotics and prosthetics but he did not voice opposition once he was assured that there would be a sunset provision for the board. His



Dianne Farabi

message was "Let them prove themselves."

An amendment changing language for physical therapists was included in the bill as it was voted out of the House committee. The amendment changed language for physical therapists to be consistent with existing language for occupational therapists, as it relates to orthotics and prosthetics.

Due to the thorough and very capable efforts by lobbyist, Paul Lee, the bill moved through the Legislature in record time... just five months after introduction. When it came to final "crunch" time, it was Paul's persistent efforts which enabled the bill to be included on the House schedule for a vote before summer recess.

Also playing a key role in the movement of SB 238 was the bill's sponsor, Doug White (R-Manchester), who took a keen interest in the

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bill's passage. Without his involvement, interest and understanding of the O & P industry, the bill would have faced a much slower and difficult course. ■

An Option for Supporting Patient Well-being: FORE HOPE

Mindy Derr
Executive Director

FORE HOPE uses golf as an instrument to help in the rehabilitation of individuals challenged by strokes, arthritis, amputation, paraplegia or other disabilities. Residents in care centers and assisted living facilities benefit from the activity of golf as it increases mobility, endurance, concentration, and improves their outlook on life.

FORE HOPE is an Ohio-based non-profit organization that brings the therapeutic value of golf to persons with disabilities, their families, and those with inactive lifestyles. FORE HOPE is a chapter member of The First Tee, a national coalition of the game's leading golf organizations whose goal is to make golf accessible for people from all walks of life. Our program is recognized by The United States Golf Association, similar programs across the country, assisted living, care centers, and rehabilitation facilities across the state, but most importantly, by our participants and their families whose lives have been enriched.

Mindy Derr founded FORE HOPE in 1989 and today serves as Executive Director. Her father, Guy was the catalyst for the inception of the program. Guy was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and as an option for hope and recovery; the FORE HOPE program was born.

FORE HOPE has experienced expansive growth from the beginning. Today, we serve over 500 participants nationwide and foresee unrestrained demand for our program.

Our funding continues to parallel our program growth. The majority of our funding comes from individual and corporate memberships, special events, grants and gifts in kind. Program revenue is minimal, as only 5% of our operating budget is derived from program activities. FORE HOPE has and always will, provide access to our program regardless of a participant's or facility's ability to pay.

FORE HOPE's new office and 9 hole golf course are located at Darby Dan Farm. The generosity of the Galbreath family to donate their course for our weekly program is instrumental in moving our program into the next century. In the past, Red Roof Inns donated their

corporate nine hole executive course for our program's exclusive use in central Ohio.

FORE HOPE offers golf services throughout central Ohio and has established programs in Cincinnati, greater Cleveland, Lancaster, Toledo and Zanesville. Participant referrals for our program come from rehabilitation care centers, and word of mouth. In the past, a part-time Director of Golf led program activities. Today,

FORE HOPE has hired a certified

recreational therapist as our full-time Program Director.

The future of FORE HOPE is very bright.

Our goal remains to serve the maximum number of participants of all ages and backgrounds. We look forward to reaching a broader audience, including a strong focus on children with disabilities, and expansion of our rehabilitation and care center programs for seniors. ■



925 Darby Creek Drive
Galloway, Ohio 43119
Phone: (614) 870-7299
e-mail: fore.hope@gateway.net
Fax: (614) 870-7245

Ohio Chapter Spring Technical Meeting 2000 in Pictures



A full house of O&P practitioners



Exhibitors set-up for the day



Practitioners visit over 60 exhibit tables



Stewart Phillips of Endolite North America, Ltd. talks with practioner



Jeff Doddroe and Tammi Beatty of Ohio Willow Wood greet O&P Attendees



Ohio Chapter—AAOP Board of Directors: (l. to r.) Mark Bondurant, President, Tom Walsh, Immediate Past President, Cynthia Fahey-Wertz, Vice President, Douglas Van Atta, Secretary-Treasurer, and Barry Steineman, President-Elect.

Licensure Rules Committee Being Formed

Individuals who are interested in the rule-writing process for Ohio licensure are invited to participate. Work will begin immediately by those individuals who wish to direct the course of O & P in Ohio by drafting the rules which will be recommended to the new board, once it is in place. This process will shorten the time period between the effective date of the law and the implementation. This process should be completed within the next six months.

Whether or not an individual wishes to serve officially on the Licensure Board, this is an excellent opportunity to for anyone who is interested to participate in the process by providing input and discussion about how the law is to be implemented.

The law itself, as well as rules already in place from other states where licensure has been implemented will be used to create the regulations by which the board will operate and by which all practitioners will practice in Ohio.

Anyone interested in working on the rules committee should contact Tracy Slemker (937/836-1464) or the State O & P Office (614/457-4312). ■

Spring/Fall Meetings: Back-to-Back Focus on Efficiency and Effectiveness

The Ohio Chapter Spring Technical Meeting, *Cost Effective Quality Patient Care* was one of the largest meetings the Ohio Chapter has ever held. Over 277 attendees came from 6 states and 48 exhibitors set up over 60 exhibit tables. According to the attendee evaluations, the meeting was a strong success.

Cost Effectiveness and patient care go hand-in-hand, of course, but the topic is vast and almost inexhaustible... more a path to travel than a goal to attain. The "Relentless Pursuit of Perfection" — one famous high end automobile manufacturer's slogan — could well apply to the O&P Industry. There are many facets to this elusive gemstone of quality and care.

This Fall's Scientific Meeting continues to explore additional topics in this fertile area, ranging from using the Internet effectively to enhance practitioners' professional practices, to building patient support organizations, to effective charting for Medicare, to a more detailed understanding of patient management and care.

The Fall Meeting program is ambitious, but the slate of presenters are capable and will deliver an outstanding program. Unlike past years, the program will begin earlier in the morning with Paul Lee's summary of licensure to date.

At 7.25, the number of PCE's applied for will be the largest ever for an Ohio Chapter meeting.

Two familiar faces will be returning—Wendy Beattie and Mike O'Donnell—each of whom are outstanding presenters and are nationally recognized experts in their area. Paul Lee, who has spoken at other Chapter meetings is the very gifted lobbyist who provided a thrilling finish to moving the O&P, CPed licensure bill through the legislature in record time and under the deadline that was almost impossible to meet.

Several exciting new names are on the program. Dr. Greg Nemunaitis will provide demonstrations with patients during his session. Jon Shin, who was active in creating O&P Internet services at the national office will provide insights into how practitioners can tap into the Internet's vast resources. Other new faces—Bill Holt, Julie Hayes (from the national office), and Jon Rheinstein—each recognized in their field of expertise—round out the program with a diverse slate of not-to-be-missed sessions.

As always, there will be a reception on Friday evening for practitioners to network with colleagues and meet presenters.

Watch your mail for your registration form. ■

COST EFFECTIVE QUALITY PATIENT CARE... PART II

OHIO CHAPTER — AAOP Fall 2000 Scientific Meeting

September 16, 2000
Radisson Airport Hotel, Columbus



- 8:00-8:30 Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 *Licensure Update*
Paul Lee -- Strategic Health Care, Inc., Columbus, Ohio
- 9:00-10:30 *Neurological Classification in Spinal Cord Injuries*
Gregory Nemunaitis, MD -- Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, Ohio
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:15 *O & P on the Internet*
Jonathan Shin -- O&P Digital Technologies, Gainesville, Florida
- 11:15- 12:00 *PTB Orthosis for Foot/Ankle Pathologies*
William Holt, BOC Orthotist, RTPO, Cole Orthotics & Prosthetics, Inc., Toledo, Ohio
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:00 *Ohio Chapter--AAOP Business Meeting*
- 1:00-2:00 *Immediate Post-operative Management for Amputation*
John Rheinstein, CP, Hanger Corp., New York
- 2:00-2:30 *Seven Hot Topics of Medicare*
Michael S. O'Donnell, C.P.O.-- Hanger Orthopedics, Inc., Parkersburg, West Virginia
- 2:30-2:45 Break
- 2:45-4:00 *Medicare Chart Compliance: Hands-on Workshop*
Michael S. O'Donnell, C.P.O.-- Hanger Orthopedics, Inc., Parkersburg, West Virginia
- 4:00-4:30 *Giving Back to the Community: Setting Up Disabled Sports in Your Area*
Wendy Beattie, C.P.O. -- S.O.A.R. (Special Opportunities for Amputee Rehabilitation), Waterford, Michigan
- 4:30-5:00 *The Fast Track to Fitness*
Julie Hayes -- O & P Athletic Fund, Alexandria, Virginia

