

# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners Calls For Working Group to Propose Regulations for the Prescribing of Controlled Substances**

**Reno, NV** – Assembly Bill No. 474 (AB 474), which became law on January 1, 2018, requires all Nevada occupational licensing boards that license practitioners who prescribe controlled substances, including the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), to promulgate regulations specifically providing for disciplinary action against a licensee for prescribing controlled substances in violation of AB 474.

On January 3, 2018, the Board held a public workshop to solicit public comment regarding a proposed disciplinary regulation, LCB File No. R100-17. Based on the comments and information received from licensees, industry stakeholders, and members of the public during the workshop, there appears to be confusion regarding AB 474's mandates relating to how the Board's normal process of professional discipline will be affected, how the implementation of AB 474 may adversely impact patients and the practice of medicine in Nevada. Therefore, the Board has temporarily suspended rulemaking efforts surrounding the proposed regulation.

Going forward, the Board will form an "AB 474 Working Group" (Group). The Group's objective is to study AB 474, explore how its mandates may impact patients and medical practitioners, and collaborate to develop workable solutions to AB 474's new requirements. The Group will be a *pro bono* committee and will meet over the next several months to formulate specific proposals for the promulgation of regulations required by AB 474, and will submit these to the Board for consideration at a future Board meeting. If approved by the Board, the regulations will begin the public rulemaking process anew.

The Group will engage diverse perspectives in order to propose regulations that comply with and serve the intent of AB 474 in ways that support licensees in their practices, as well as serve the genuine needs of patients. The Board anticipates the Group will consist of at least two Board members, a representative of the Nevada legislature, representatives from the Nevada State Medical Association, and other relevant industry stakeholders.

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*The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners serves the state of Nevada by ensuring that only well-qualified, competent physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists and perfusionists receive licenses to practice in Nevada. The Board responds with expediency to complaints against our licensees by conducting fair, complete investigations that result in appropriate action. In all Board activities, the Board will place the interests of the public before the interests of the medical profession and encourage public input and involvement to help educate the public as we improve the quality of medical practice in Nevada.*