

Memorandum

To: House Committee on Health Care  
From: Stephen Merena, DPM  
Vermont Podiatric Medical Association  
Date: March 28, 2019  
Re: S.42 – Composition of the Green Mountain Care Board

I am writing on behalf of the Vermont Podiatric Medical Association with respect to the House Committee on Health Care review of S.42.

We respectfully request that Podiatrists be included in the definition of health care professional as it pertains to satisfying the proposed GMCB Governor-appointed member requirement. The companion House bill (H.52) does include Podiatrists as part of this definition, along with the other health care practitioners listed in S.42.

Podiatrists are board-certified physicians who provide medical and surgical care to the foot, ankle and lower leg. In the state of Vermont, Podiatrists have served in the capacity of broad leadership positions with regards to healthcare systems, hospitals etc. For example, a Podiatrist served as the President of Medical Staff at Northeastern Vermont Medical Center in St. Johnsbury. A Podiatrist has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. There are 2 Podiatrists with current appointments to the UVM Larner College of Medicine at the UVM Medical Center. The broad experience of Podiatrists in the field of health care would qualify for a position on the GMCB.

We propose the following amendment to S.42 (**in bold**):

18 V.S.A. § 9374. BOARD MEMBERSHIP; AUTHORITY

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(a)(2) ... At least one member of the Board shall be an individual licensed to practice medicine under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, **an individual licensed as a podiatrist under 26 V.S.A. chapter 7**, an individual licensed as a naturopathic physician pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 81, an individual licensed as a physician assistant under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or an individual licensed as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28.

Thank you for your consideration.