



Arizona Medical Board

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FINAL MINUTES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE JOINT LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on Thursday, October 30, 2025 1740 W. Adams St., Phoenix, Arizona

Committee Members

Jodi A. Bain, M.A., J.D., LL.M., Chair
Katie S. Artz, M.D., M.S.
Bruce Bethancourt, M.D.
Laura Dorrell, M.S.N., R.N.
R. Screven Farmer, M.D.
Gary R. Figge, M.D.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Bain called the Committee's meeting to order at: 5:08 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members participated virtually: Dr. Bethancourt, Dr. Farmer, Ms. Bain, Dr. Artz, Dr. Figge and Ms. Dorrell.

The following Board staff participated in the virtual meeting: Raquel Rivera, Executive Director; and Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager. Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") was also present.

C. GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Individuals who addressed the Committee during the Public Statements portion of the meeting are listed under the topic.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 31, 2025 Administrative Joint Legislation and Rules Committee
- August 26, 2025 Administrative Joint Legislation and Rules Committee

Dr. Artz and Dr. Bethancourt noted that their attendance is inaccurately captured in the minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Dorrell moved to approve the July 31, 2025 Administrative Joint Legislation and Rules Committee minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Figge.

VOTE: The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Dr. Bethancourt, Dr. Artz and Ms. Dorrell.

The following Committee members were absent: Ms. Bain and Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION: Ms. Dorrell moved to approve the August 26, 2025 Administrative Joint Legislation and Rules Committee minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Figge.

VOTE: The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge and Ms. Dorrell. The following Committee members abstained. Dr. Artz and Dr. Bethancourt.

The following Committee members were absent: Dr. Farmer and Ms. Bain.

VOTE: 2-yay, 0-nay, 2-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

E. REVIEW OF AMB ALL MEETINGS CALENDAR

- Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

Ms. Rivera provided a calendar with all JLRC meetings, the AMB 2025 and 2026 All Meeting calendar. Ms. Rivera commented that since two members of the Committee have fallen off, she will bring the calendar back for approval.

Dr. Figge requested that the calendar be placed on the full Board agenda for consideration and inquired if there will be training.

Ms. Rivera informed the Committee that she is planning for next year to include training in regular Board meetings, and she would also like to have an off-site meeting that just solely focuses on education.

F. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FIVE YEAR REVIEW AND RULEMAKING CALENDAR

Ms. Rivera reported that she continues to work on adding historical details to the rulemaking calendar and that there have been no major changes to the rulemaking calendar since the last meeting.

G. FIVE YEAR REVIEW

1. ARTICLE 2, LICENSURE – STATUS UPDATE REGARDING FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Ms. Rivera reported that she submitted the 5YRR on September 26, 2025, well in advance of the extension deadline of December 29, 2025. This has not been scheduled for an upcoming GRRC agenda. On October 21, 2025, she requested authorization to proceed with rulemaking from the Governor's Office pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1039(A) for the proposed rulemaking changes identified in the 5YRR. Ms. Rivera noted that she did identify a rule she overlooked that requires removal. Specifically, R4-16-201(D)(7) requires verification of all hospital affiliations for the last 5 years, which was a statutory requirement until the amendment of A.R.S. § 32-1422(11)(b) due to Senate Bill 1404, which became effective in April 2019, and since that time has required the last 5 years of medical employment in lieu of hospital affiliations. Since this is no longer a statutory requirement, the rule should be amended. Ms. Rivera provided the revised Article 2 5YRR for reference.

H. RULEMAKING

1. ARTICLE 7, OFFICE BASED SURGERY - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING RULEMAKING STATUS

Ms. Rivera reported that on October 15, 2025, GRRC's Staff Attorney reached out to her and requested clarification of stakeholder's comments and AMB responses from oral proceedings. Subsequently, he requested she provide a revised Notice of Final Rulemaking (NFR) to include a response to all stakeholder comments. The Article 7 rules were discussed at the GRRC Study Session on October 28, 2025 and there were no reported concerns with the proposed rulemakings. A GRRC council member inquired whether the Board collaborated with the Nursing Board on the rules and which guidelines were considered as part of the amended language. The proposed changes will now be considered at the GRRC council meeting on November 4, 2025. If approved at GRRC, the Board would then file the rules with the Secretary of State to be published in the Administrative Register to be effective within 60 days.

2. ARTICLE 4, MEDICAL ASSISTANTS – REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND CONSIDERATION OF PURSUING RULEMAKING TO ADDRESS AUTHORIZED PROCEDURES FOR MAS

Dr. Joe Giancola addressed the Committee during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

Ms. Rivera reported that at the prior meeting, the Committee received a lot of information related to authorized procedures for MAs and there was some discussion about the need for rulemaking to address these issues. She attached her correspondence with our rule writer for the Committee's review and consideration. Ms. Rivera requested the Board's input on whether they would like her to request authorization to proceed with rulemaking on this issue so that the Board can formally establish and codify any authorized procedures in rule. Additionally, Ms. Rivera requested the Board's approval of the attached revised MA FAQ document with additional wording noting that these FAQs are intended solely to provide general clarification regarding medical assistant procedures and does not create or amend any rule or policy of the Board.

Dr. Huether stated that he initially found the FAQs confusing that MAs could administer injections of scheduled drugs but not local anesthetics and requested clarification. Dr. Huether stated that local anesthetic injections are done routinely throughout the country and safely by MAs under physician supervision and noted this approach is supported by the American Academy of Dermatology, the Mohs College, and the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery. Dr. Huether stated that they want to make sure it is done safely. Dr. Huether stated that they worked hand-in-hand with the Arizona Anesthesia Society to develop guidelines of what that safe delegation of local anesthetic would be, and requested that the Committee consider the recommendation.

Ms. Bain stated that her understanding was that the issue was regarding what the word 'anesthetic' and the word 'supervision' means.

Ms. Smith stated that this is a policy decision for the Board to make.

Ms. Rivera commented that with regard to the max of 300 milligrams and the 3 cc's of injections, there needs to be additional research about whether this is something that could be addressed in the FAQs without rulemaking, or whether it's something that requires rulemaking.

Dr. Bethancourt noted that a MA is allowed to do anything that the physician oversees and permits.

Ms. Rivera clarified that there are certain procedures that fall within an MA scope of practice, so our rules outline what their training requirements are, and that a physician can provide that training. Additionally, it says that the Board can prescribe any additional procedures that MAs are authorized to do in rule.

Dr. Figge clarified that the Committee broke down the language to specifically address lidocaine. Dr. Farmer commented that this is something that is amenable to rule making and opined that Dr. Huether's effort to work with the anesthesiology society was appropriate. Dr. Bethancourt suggested just changing "anesthetic" to "local anesthetic". Ms. Bain commented that if it's not in statute, there may be pushback from GRRC.

Ms. Smith noted that to administer injections is in the statute but it is incredibly broad language, and the Board has authority to interpret its own statutes through rule. The fact that it is in statute provides the Board with some basis for at least pursuing rulemaking in this arena.

Dr. Giancola suggested that a simple change would be to allow local anesthetics.

Dr. Bethancourt inquired whether this is limited to just lidocaine and asked if revision should be focused on just that issue. Dr. Figge commented that the previous discussion was for lidocaine, but agreed that local anesthetic would be fine.

Dr. Tournas highlighted that the restriction on injections were not in statute, but in the FAQs and requested striking the restrictions that were inserted within the FAQs that are not in statute.

Ms. Bain suggested that Ms. Smith review Dr. Tournas's comments.

Dr. Farmer opined that the Board has to be careful about what is endorsed and incrementally injecting over a period of time to a dose of 300 milligrams is very different than potentially injecting it immediately and maybe getting intravascular by accident or something. Dr. Farmer opined that it's important to expedite a solution as soon as possible. Dr. Bethancourt agreed that the Board has done due diligence and that the dermatologist and the anesthesiology society have given their intent for safety and to do the right thing.

Ms. Smith recommended the Committee evaluate these issues, make a game plan, and that can be referred to the Board.

Ms. Rivera confirmed that depending on Ms. Smith's review and what her advice is at that time, she can bring this back before the Board or the JLRC, depending on the timing. Ms. Rivera noted that she will make sure to provide what that wording looks like, so the Committee will have some options for decision making.

MOTION: Dr. Figge moved to approve the Executive Director amending the FAQs with the suggestion red lined language.

SECOND: Dr. Artz.

VOTE: The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Dr. Bethancourt, Dr. Artz and Ms. Dorrell.

The following Committee members were absent: Ms. Bain and Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

I. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PA SUNSET AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Rivera provided the PA Sunset Audit for review and consideration. Ms. Rivera informed the Committee that she continues to work through the recommendations related to investigations, managerial/departmental oversight and monitoring. Specific to the JLRC, the Committee will need to discuss the recommendations related to performance metrics and related incentive payments. Ms. Rivera noted the recommendations in the memo and stated that she will bring these back to the committee for review at the end of the fiscal year.

J. CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION IN ADVANCE OF NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MOTION: Dr. Figge moved for the Board to enter into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-431.03(A)(3) to obtain legal advice.

SECOND: Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Dr. Bethancourt, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Dr. Farmer and Ms. Bain.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:11 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:33 p.m.

No legal action was taken by the Board during Executive Session.

K. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS

- Ms. Smith's advice based on research re: MA procedures.

L. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Bethancourt moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Dr. Artz.

VOTE: The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Dr. Bethancourt, Dr. Artz and Ms. Dorrell.

The following Committee members were absent: Ms. Bain and Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

The meeting adjourned at: 6:20 p.m.,



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director