

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 10.2018-06  
(A-19)**

Introduced by: Roger Rodrigues, M.D., ISMS Member

Subject: Licensure Fees for Retired Physicians

Referred to: Council on Education & Health Workforce

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1           Whereas, several retired physicians provide charitable care; and

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3           Whereas, these physicians do not generate a bill, or collect fees; therefore, be it

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5           RESOLVED, that retired physicians who provide free care, and do not bill or  
6 charge for their services should receive a substantial reduction in their license dues, or  
7 no charge.

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

**Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:**

House of Delegates adopted Substitute Resolution C315 (A-18), which calls for ISMS to develop a physician volunteer program to link retired physicians with appropriate volunteer opportunities and explore options for assisting and engaging physicians who are unable to continue practicing medicine due to illness or other catastrophic events. (HOD 2018)

House of Delegates adopted Resolution 15 (A-06), which directed that the ISMS review the availability and affordability of Category 1 continuing medical education (CME) for retired physicians, with the goal of helping retired physicians maintain licensure so they can provide uncompensated care for the indigent or uninsured. (HOD 2007)

Board of Trustees reaffirmed its support of retired volunteer physicians who give of their time and talent to serve in free clinics around the state; supports the need for CME as specified in the Medical Practice Act to maintain an active Illinois license; and, should the Medical Practice Act be opened to amendments, supports consideration of an amendment that would provide special status by waiving licensing fees for retired physicians who volunteer at free clinics. (BOT 2008-OCT)

House of Delegates adopted Resolution C310 (A-13), which called for ISMS to explore the possibility of introducing legislation to create a medical licensure category for retired physicians, with a waived or reduced licensure fee, that will allow them to provide uncompensated care. (HOD 2013)

NOTE: The legislation introduced as a result of the passage of Resolution C310 (A-13) was ultimately passed into law as Public Act 098-0659. This law allows the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue volunteer licenses to health care professionals (including physicians, dentists, optometrists, physician assistants and nurses) who practice as volunteers without receiving compensation. The first 500 such licenses will be issued without fee, and the Department may provide fee reductions or fee waivers for subsequent licenses.

The Society recommends that physicians affiliate with service clubs, local political action groups and participate to the fullest extent possible in affairs affecting the health and welfare of the residents of Illinois. (HOD 1980 Interim Amended; Reaffirmed 1994; Last BOT Review 2013)

Physicians who serve state or local agencies as volunteers, independent contractors or employees, should be provided legal defense, indemnification and appropriate immunity by the governmental agency. (HOD 1987; Last BOT Review 2013)

It is the policy of ISMS to support liability exemption for volunteer physicians in their efforts to support their communities by providing medical coverage for public events and to support the concept that these volunteer efforts of physicians should be exempted under the Medical Practice Act in the same way that physician volunteers are presently exempted who work in free clinics. (HOD 1996; Last BOT Review 2013)

The Illinois State Medical Society supports the concept of recruitment of Illinois physician volunteers for the Freedom Corps pursuant to clarification of liability and other concerns. (HOD 2002; Last BOT Review 2013)