



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Administrator's Office**
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October 16, 2013

Representative Andrea Lea, Co-Chairperson
Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Co-Chairperson
Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation
Plan Subcommittee
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) submits a request from the Arkansas State Medical Board for your review.

The Arkansas State Medical Board has requested two (2) positions from the Growth Pool. The classifications requested are listed below:

CLASSIFICATIONS REQUESTED

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CLASS CODE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Licensing Coordinator	C045C	C113
Licensing Coordinator	C045C	C113

JUSTIFICATION

The Arkansas State Medical Board currently has 19 Licensing Coordinator positions, grade C113. Over the course of the last year, the Arkansas State Medical Board has had their physician licensing applications increase from 597 cases in 2012 to 645 in the first nine months of 2013 alone.

With the recent increase in applications, the Board has need for two additional positions from the Growth Pool. These new positions will be responsible for assisting with the processing of physician licensing applications in addition to assisting with the dramatic increase of Telemedicine physician licensing applications, which take an average of an additional 60-70 days to process. The telemedicine physician license applications have increased from 56 in 2012 to 170 in the first nine months of 2013 which results in an increase of over 200%.

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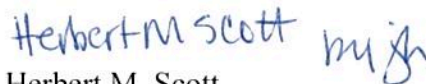
Until now, the Arkansas State Medical Board has had to utilize the services of temporary help and authorize additional overtime to maintain their current workload. In FY13, they spent \$58,846 for temporary services, an average of \$4,904 a month. In the first three months of FY14, the Arkansas State Medical Board has spent \$42,514 for temporary services, an average of \$14,171 a month. If this spending were to continue, it would result in a total cost of \$170,000 for FY14 on temporary help.

The maximum cost, including matching and health premiums, for these two Licensing Coordinator positions, grade C113, would not exceed \$99,683.

The Office of Personnel Management has reviewed this request and **recommends** the establishment of these Growth Pool positions.

Your approval of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Herbert M. Scott
State Personnel Administrator



Chief Fiscal Officer of the State

OCT -1 2013

Date

HMS/sd



ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD

1401 West Capitol, Suite 340, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • (501) 296-1802 • FAX (501) 603-3555
www.armedicalboard.org

September 26, 2013

Herb Scott, State Personnel Administrator
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of Personnel
1509 West 7th Street, Ste. 205
Little Rock, AR 72201

RECEIVED

SEP 25 2013

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MGMT
CLASS & COMP**

Dear Mr. Scott:

The Arkansas State Medical Board has a dire need and is asking for your consideration of approving two new, C113, Licensing Coordinator positions.

Due to the impending health care changes, physicians have begun to position themselves to provide medical services both inside the state and outside the state via telemedicine. This positioning has created a tremendous influx of physicians and other allied health license applications that could not have been anticipated during the FY14 budgeting process, as the Board had only experienced a 5% increase in applications from 2011 to 2012 calendar year.

In 2012 we had a total of 597 applications. As of today's date we have received 645, representing a 44% increase. In 2012 we licensed 469 physicians, averaging 39 licenses per month. As of October 4th the Board will have licensed 463 physicians, averaging 51 per month; and it is anticipated we will license an additional 100 to 150 physicians by the end of December, representing a 31% increase over 2012.

An additional factor in this "need" equation for additional staff is the 204% increase in the number of Telemedicine physician applications received, going from 56 in 2012 to 170 received to date in 2013. These applications take an average of an additional 60 to 70 days to process due to the number of other state licenses and work site privilege verifications that are required.

The Board has been forced to utilize more temporary help and authorize additional overtime in an attempt to maintain the workload. In FY13 we spent \$58,846 for temp services. To date this fiscal year we have spent \$42,513.85 on temporary help, placing the Board on track to have a total expenditure up to \$170,000, which will lead us to request additional appropriation to cover the increased costs. This increase alone would pay for two additional full time staff

salaries, matching, and workstations to house them. We have over 1500 hours of comp time on the books for relevant staff.

The Board is receiving calls from legislators concerned with health services coverage for their areas, and the time it is taking to license physicians they need for that coverage. These calls are coming in to the Board and directly to the Board Members.

Although the Board is well aware of the push to curtail the size of government, the Board is respectfully asking for this consideration. This is not a situation the Board could have budgeted for. It is a reactive situation generated by the new national health care law. Failure to meet the needs of the citizens throughout the state due to an encumbered work load is contradictory to the Board's mission of helping to provide quality health care to all citizens.

The Medical Board is a cash agency and has the reserves necessary to fund this request for two additional full time positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy Pryor Cryer".

Peggy Pryor Cryer
Executive Secretary

PPC:dr
Copy