



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE



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**TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY TERRANOVA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
L.D. 2233**

**An Act to Combine the Board of Licensure in Medicine and Board
of Osteopathic Licensure into a Single Licensing Board for All
Physicians and Physician Associates
Before the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

March 18, 2026

BOLIM licenses and regulates allopathic physicians and physician associates in Maine. BOLIM is composed of 11 members: 6 physicians who actively practice medicine; 2 physician associates who actively render medical services; and 3 public members. BOLIM's primary mission is to protect the public health and welfare of Maine by ensuring that those who are licensed to practice medicine or render medical services are ethical, professional and competent. It fulfills this mission by licensing, regulating, and educating physicians and physician associates.

Approximately 18 months ago, representatives from BOLIM and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure (BOL) met to discuss the possibility of merging. Those meetings resulted in the introduction of LD 805, Resolve to Direct the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure to Conduct a Study Regarding the Feasibility of Combining Those Boards. Due to the fact that representatives of the boards had already formed a workgroup and started regular meetings in January 2025, the committee voted ought not to pass on LD 805 and sent a letter to the boards instructing them to continue their work and report back in January 2026.

The workgroup met once a month in 2025. The first several meetings were focused on gathering information and included presentations from outside organizations and interested parties. The rest of the meetings were focused on what a merged board would look like and how to ensure that our common mission to protect the public would be upheld and ultimately strengthened.

Those meetings revolved around creating a draft statute allowing board members and the public to see what a merged board could look like. This involved items such as keeping the current requirements for licensure for each profession, creating two investigative committees to share the workload and updating the adjudicatory hearing process.

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At the beginning, there was discussion of reducing the number of board members. The number changed throughout the discussions but, in the end, it was felt that keeping all board member positions was the best option and would enhance the new board's ability to protect the public.

We reported back to the committee in January with our written report and draft statute. As a reminder, our report and presentation to this committee detailed the reasons needed for merger, including the need for separate investigative and hearing panels. Given the time constraints, I will not take the time to go through each part now, but I am happy to answer any questions. I would like to thank the committee for its support during this process and introducing the current bill. I would also like to thank the board members and staff from both boards who spent a significant amount of time and effort participating in this effort. Some are here today to show their support.

This process was not a straightforward "rubber stamp" of merging the boards. There was difference of opinion and conflict over various issues but, in the end, the workgroup and the boards were able to come to terms and agree on a way forward that best protects the public.

The work is not finished, and the workgroup has continued to meet and discuss plans in case this legislation passes. Part of that work has resulted in a draft timeline and checklist, which are attached to this testimony. As you can see, the workgroup continues to think and plan proactively.

You may hear testimony voicing concerns about a merger. Some of the testimony may include examples of how the two professions interacted in the past, concerns about changing licensure requirements for professions, failure of one profession to understand the unique traits of another profession, and loss of professional independence. These are valid concerns that were heard and discussed by the workgroup as it worked through this process. The workgroup has done its best to be responsive to those concerns.

However, there is an implicit difference between the role of a licensing board and the role of a professional association. Boards are created by the legislature to protect the health, safety and welfare of Maine citizens. Professional associations are established by professionals to protect and promote their profession. Our boards have long histories of collaborating with their respective professional associations. However, a merger may not align with some of the associations' goals. The workgroup and both boards believe the draft statute strikes the right balance while maintaining the focus on the public protection purpose of licensing boards. We look forward to continued collaboration with the professional associations.

I would like to point out that the bill will need a fiscal note. As indicated in the report, we expect to incur one-time charges of approximately \$200,000 related to the merger. The boards have sufficient funds in their dedicated revenue reserves to cover that cost, and this will not result in increased fees for licensees. As indicated on the timeline, the work will begin now, and we will need those funds to pay our vendors. We are open to the committee's guidance, but one option may be including two effective dates in the bill, one for the effective date of the merge (1/1/27) and one for the effective date for the funds (7/1/26).

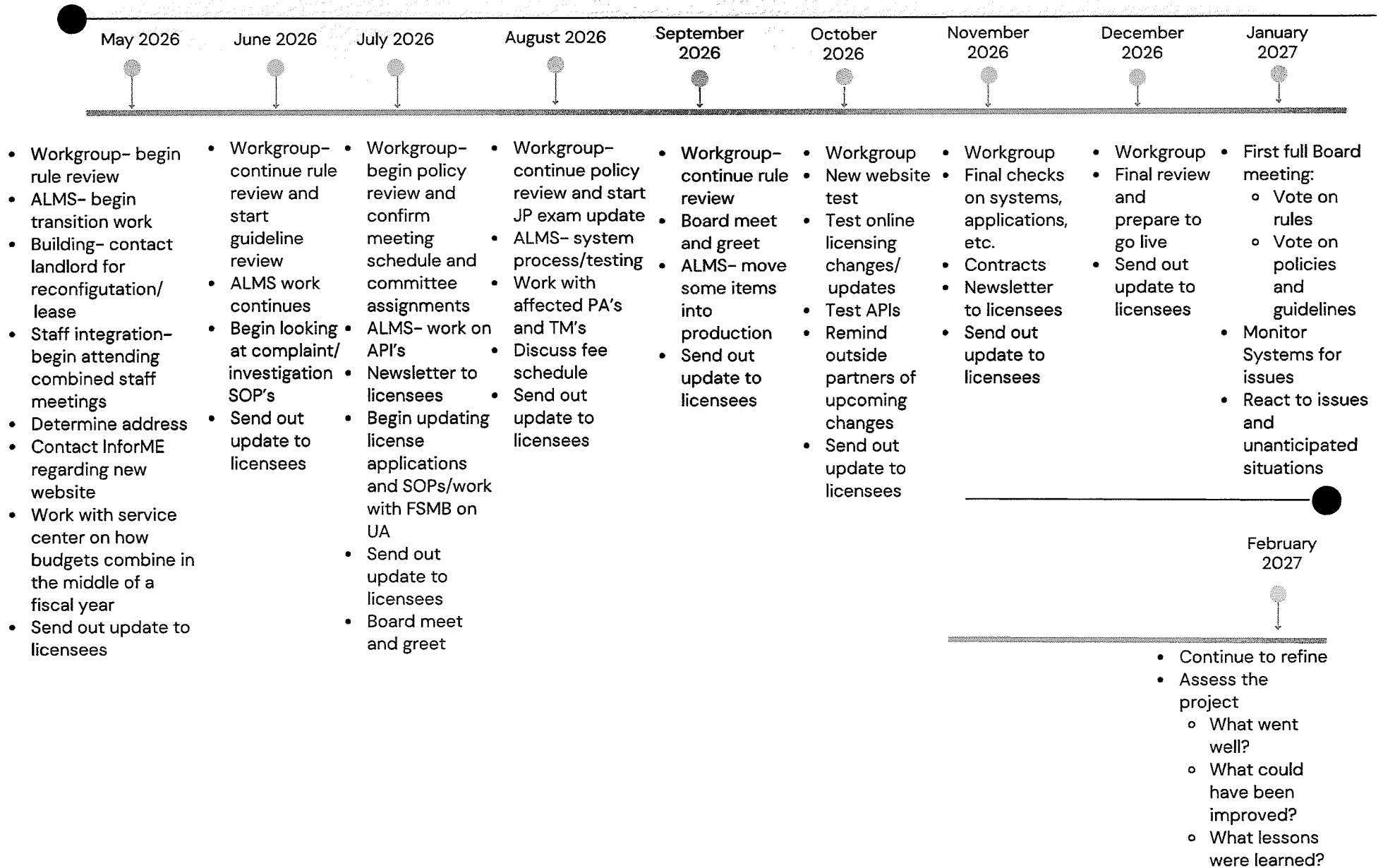
In addition, I would like to mention that the following sections of LD 2233 may need to be removed or amended based on what happens with LD 2088, An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates:

- §20102 (11) Definition of practice agreement;

- §20125 subsection 2 (C) regarding the term “practice agreements;” and
- §20152 (5) regarding practice agreement requirements).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments regarding LD 2233. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

BOLIM & BOL Merger Timeline



BOLIM & BOL Merger Checklist

Technical

ALMS	Outside Vendors	InforME	OIT
Merging Data Bases	New Prefixes	New Website/URL	New Distribution Lists
PA Licenses	API Updates	Online Licensing	New Mailboxes
API Updates	Video Updates	Jurisprudence Examination	Update Organization Profile
Complaint #'s	Compacts - Fingerprinting		Board Member Laptops

Licensing, Complaints, Administration & Financial

Licensing	Complaints	Administration	Financial
Application Updates	Complaint Materials Updates	Address Change	Budget
Jurisprudence Exam Updates	Policies and Procedures Updates	Rules	One Time Expenses
Policies and Procedures Updates		Policies	Contracts
		Guidelines	Memberships/Annual Dues
		Retention Schedule	P-Card

Building, Board & Staff

Building	Board	Staff
Office Reconfiguration	Continued Workgroup Meetings	Integration
Signage	Meeting Schedule	Workload Distribution
Lease	Committee Assignments	HR/Service Center
	Leadership	
	Compensation Board Members and Leadership	

Licensees/Interested Parties & FSMB

Licensees/ Interested Parties	FSMB
Communication	Update
	Request Support

NPDB

DRAFT