

FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2020

Report of Reference Committee No. II – Finance and Administration

Presented by: Alma Littles, M.D., Chair

Mr. Speaker, Reference Committee No. II – Finance and Administration has considered each of the items referred to it and presents the following report. The Committee's recommendation on each item will be submitted separately, and for this year's meeting, will be voted on electronically by the House of Delegates.

(1) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-1: Bylaws Amendment, Chapter VI, Section 1. Composition

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-1 be NOT adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO PROVIDE THAT A MILITARY PHYSICIAN BE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS BY THE FMA PRESIDENT AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

The Committee heard testimony in support of and against this proposed amendment. Supporters of this resolution felt that adding a military physician to the Board of Governors would add a distinct voice to FMA, thereby bringing untapped expertise and insight to the association. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of precision of the term, "military physician," with additional elements that needed delineation (e.g., duty status, inclusion of public health service physicians, consideration of VA physicians). Because your reference committee was limited in item disposition to adopt or not adopt, your Committee felt that "not adopt" was appropriate for retooling of the proposed amendment and potential resubmission at the next HOD meeting.

(2) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-2: Bylaws Amendment, Chapter III, Section 11. Voting Requirements

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-2 be adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO PROVIDE THAT FMA PAST PRESIDENTS BE CONSIDERED DELEGATES TO THE FMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES AND BE ENTITLED TO VOTE ON ANY QUESTION BEFORE THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The Committee heard mixed testimony on this amendment. Testimony against Recommendation B-2 noted that Past Presidents are able to vote in the House of Delegates as a member of their county or specialty organization. It was also noted that this would not greatly impact the House of Delegates in 2021 and should be voted down and brought back for discussion at the next in-person Annual Meeting. Testimony in favor of Recommendation B-2 noted that the intent of the amendment was to invite more participation from the Past Presidents, and it would free delegation slots for physicians who are wanting to become more involved in organized medicine.

(3) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-3: Bylaws Amendment, Chapter III, Section 13. Reference Committees

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-3 be NOT adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO PROVIDE THAT THE FMA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINT AN FMA PAST PRESIDENT AND/OR AN FMA DELEGATE TO THE AMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO EACH REFERENCE COMMITTEE, IF POSSIBLE.

Supporters of this amendment argued that the institutional knowledge that comes from AMA Delegates and/or former presidents of the FMA provide a great value to reference committees during deliberations. Those against Recommendation B-3 argued that by mandating seat assignments, available slots could be taken away from those who are trying to get involved in the FMA. Further there were concerns that the language was not specific enough to be included in the bylaws. The Reference Committee felt that this process was already taking place and therefore was redundant to mandate it in the bylaws. Further, deference should be provided to the Speakers in their appointments.

(4) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-4: Bylaws Amendment, Chapter VI, Section 2. Duties and Functions

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-4 be NOT adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ESTABLISH A STANDING COMMITTEE ON PAST PRESIDENTS.

The Reference Committee understood that it was the intent of the amendment to cultivate a culture of inclusiveness for the Past Presidents and to maintain participation in the organization. The Committee was unsure of the specific purpose that the proposed committee would have and felt that there were other ways that former presidents of the FMA could maintain involvement within the organization. The Committee also felt insertion of “past presidents” into the language regarding functions of the committee was too awkward to be included in the bylaws.

(5) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-5: Bylaws Amendment, Chapter VI, Section 3. Meetings

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-5 be adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT RETREAT TAKE PLACE AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND THAT THE PRESIDENT ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT THE DISCRETION OF THE FMA PRESIDENT.

The Reference Committee only heard testimony in favor of this recommendation and viewed the proposed amendment as reasonable for efficiency and as a cost-saving measure.

(6) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-6: Bylaws Amendment, Chapter VI, Section 1. Composition

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-6 be NOT adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO PROVIDE THAT THE MEDICAL STUDENT SEAT ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS BE AN ELECTED POSITION.

Supporters of this amendment argued that this recommendation would align the Medical Student Section with the other seats on the Board of Governors. It was also noted that once elected, members of the Board represent the entire organization, and therefore should be voted on by the entire House of Delegates. Others felt that this recommendation would place too much undue pressure on medical students and may inhibit their participation. The Committee noted that there was some input from the Medical Student Section in early discussions but no further remarks was heard during

public testimony. Having heard both sides of the argument, Reference Committee II voted to recommend against adoption for Recommendation B-6.

(7) REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Recommendation B-7: New Bylaws Chapter, Chapter XIII, Emergency Bylaws

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that **Recommendation B-7 be adopted.**

THAT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AMEND THE FMA BYLAWS TO SET FORTH A SET OF BYLAWS THAT WOULD ADEQUATELY ADDRESS FMA OPERATIONS DURING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY, SUCH AS A HURRICANE OR A PANDEMIC.

The Reference Committee had concerns about the broad definition of “emergency condition” in Section 1 but felt that due to the current pandemic, it was important to have a set of emergency bylaws added. The Committee voted to recommend adoption with the understanding that this amendment would be revisited by the Committee on Bylaws to provide a better-defined set of parameters for when the emergency bylaws can be invoked and when they would be discontinued, and bring proposed changes to next year’s House of Delegates.