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**Pennsylvania Medical Society
House of Delegates
Report**

Reference Committee A

Presented by: Mark S. Friedlander, MD, Chair

October 2017

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends the following consent calendar:

Recommended for Adoption

1. Report 2, Board of Trustees, 2016 Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Subject Eight – Expansion of the Affiliate Member Category to include Physicians 70 Years of Age or Older on overall membership numbers and delegate representation

Recommended to Refer Back to Committee

2. 2017 Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Subject One – Membership: Admission to Membership (Action deferred until 2018 House of Delegates)
 3. 2017 Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Subject Two – Membership: Membership Categories, Administrative Members (Action deferred until 2018 House of Delegates)
 4. 2017 Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Subject Three – Special Sections: Early Career Physicians Section (Action deferred until 2018 House of Delegates)
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Three proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s bylaws were received in 2017. However, the amendments were not included in the 2017 House of Delegates Official Call by the required deadline. Per the direction of the House Speaker, all actions regarding any proposed bylaws amendments will be deferred until the 2018 House of Delegates.

Report 2 of the Board of Trustees regarding a 2016 proposed bylaws amendment is not affected by this deferral. As such, Reference Committee A has made a recommendation for action to the 2017 House of Delegates as contained herein.

1. REPORT 2, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2016 PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: SUBJECT EIGHT – EXPANSION OF THE AFFILIATE MEMBER CATEGORY TO INCLUDE PHYSICIANS 70 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ON OVERALL MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND DELEGATE REPRESENTATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that the recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 2 be adopted and the remainder of the report be filed.

Subject Eight of 2016, introduced at the 2016 annual meeting and referred to the Board of Trustees for study, called on the Pennsylvania Medical Society to study the impact on overall membership numbers and delegate representation of a proposed bylaws amendment that would expand the Affiliate Member category to include physicians 70 years of age or older.

1 In 2016, Pennsylvania Medical Society staff proposed the expansion of the Affiliate Member category to
 2 include physicians 70 years of age or older. This proposed amendment would result in the elimination of
 3 the Associate Member category. Since the Associate Member category would be eliminated, the related
 4 membership options, Associate Member with Mail and Associate Member with No Mail, would no longer
 5 be available. Existing members of the Associate Member with Mail category would be moved to the
 6 Affiliate Member category. Existing members of the Associate Member with No Mail category would
 7 remain in this category; however, no new members would be added to the category.

8
 9 Upon study of this issue, it was determined that the proposed bylaws amendment could result in a decrease
 10 in overall membership numbers. However, several benefits would be derived from the proposed change,
 11 including new membership opportunities for physicians 70 years of age or older, a potential decrease in the
 12 cost for county medical societies, simplification of membership categories, and more consistent and
 13 accurate tracking of membership data.

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 15 Based upon the information provided, your Board of Trustees recommended that Board Report 2 be
 16 adopted. Your reference committee believes that the Board of Trustees has made a thorough examination
 17 of this issue and supports its recommendation.

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 19 2. 2017 PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: SUBJECT ONE – MEMBERSHIP: ADMISSION TO
 20 MEMBERSHIP

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 22 RECOMMENDATION:

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 24 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that proposed bylaws
 25 amendment Subject One in the 2017 Official Call be recommended for
 26 referral back to this committee.

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 28 Currently, Chapter I, Section 2 of the bylaws provides that physicians and medical students must be a
 29 member of a component medical society.

30
 31 Proposed Bylaws Amendment Subject One would exempt physicians and medical students from component
 32 medical society membership if they neither live, work nor have a hospital affiliation in Pennsylvania. The
 33 rationale for this proposed amendment is that component medical society benefits are not utilized by out-
 34 of-state physicians or medical students. Since they are currently given the option of choosing a component
 35 medical society to join, they usually opt to join component medical societies that assess no dues. This
 36 results in a misrepresentation of the number of active members for counties and could artificially increase
 37 delegate representation. If Proposed Bylaws Amendment Subject One is adopted, these individuals would
 38 still be able to vote as members of a section, hold office, and serve as a member of any workgroup or
 39 committee at the state level.

40
 41 Your committee heard testimony both in favor of, and against, this proposed bylaws amendment. Most of
 42 the testimony focused on whether members who meet the criteria should be allowed to hold office within
 43 the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Those in favor of this proposed bylaws amendment testified that as a
 44 dues paying member, these individuals should hold the same rights as other members. Those in favor also
 45 testified to the importance of transparency: dues paying members with no affiliation to the Commonwealth
 46 should be required to disclose their disposition and leave it up to the voting membership to decide whether
 47 to elect the individual into a leadership position.

48
 49 Those against this proposed bylaws amendment testified that office-holding members should have some
 50 affiliation or presence in Pennsylvania, as it is those members who best understand the issues facing
 51 physicians in Pennsylvania. Some members who testified against this proposed bylaws amendment were
 52 in favor of allowing these individuals to become members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society but to make
 53 them ineligible to hold office.

1 Per your direction, any action regarding this resolution will be deferred to the 2018 House of Delegates.
 2 As your bylaws committee will be undertaking a thorough review of all bylaws starting in 2018, your
 3 committee, along with the membership taskforce, will study the membership categories in more detail and
 4 make recommendations consistent with its findings.

5
 6 3. 2017 PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: SUBJECT TWO – MEMBERSHIP: MEMBERSHIP
 7 CATEGORIES – ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBER
 8

9 RECOMMENDATION:

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 11 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that proposed bylaws
 12 amendment Subject Two in the 2017 Official Call be recommended for
 13 referral back to this committee.
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15 Currently, Chapter I, Section 3(e) of the bylaws provides that hospital medical staff coordinators are exempt
 16 from paying dues.

17
 18 Proposed Bylaws Amendment Subject Two would clarify that hospital medical staff coordinators must
 19 meet the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s membership guidelines in addition to not being exempt from
 20 paying dues. The rationale for this proposed amendment is that practice medical staff coordinators pay
 21 10% of full active state and county dues, unless the county medical society chooses to forego those dues.
 22 Therefore, hospital medical staff coordinators should be held to the same requirements as practice medical
 23 staff coordinators.
 24

25 Your committee heard no testimony on this issue. Per your direction, any action regarding this amendment
 26 will be deferred to the 2018 House of Delegates.
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28 4. 2017 PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: SUBJECT THREE – SPECIAL SECTIONS – EARLY
 29 CAREER PHYSICIANS SECTION
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31 RECOMMENDATION:

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 33 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that proposed bylaws
 34 amendment Subject Three in the 2017 Official Call be recommended for
 35 referral back to this committee.
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37 Currently, Chapter XIV, Section 6 of the bylaws provides that the trustee representing early career
 38 physicians to the Board of Trustees must be under 40 years of age or in the first five (5) years of professional
 39 endeavor after residency and fellowship training programs at the time of election. In addition, Chapter
 40 XVIII, Section 3 of the bylaws provides that membership in the Early Career Physicians Section shall
 41 include all active physician members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society who are under 40 years of age
 42 or in the first five (5) years of professional endeavor after residency and fellowship training.
 43

44 Proposed Bylaws Amendment Subject Three would revise these sections to provide that the Early Career
 45 Physicians Section would include all active physician members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society who
 46 are under 40 years of age or in the first seven (7) years of professional endeavor after residency and
 47 fellowship training. In addition, the trustee representing early career physicians to the Board of Trustees
 48 would have to meet either of these qualifications at the time of election. The rationale for this proposed
 49 amendment is that extending the term of eligibility to seven (7) years would match the eligibility
 50 requirements of the Early Career Physicians Section with the eligibility requirements of the American
 51 Medical Association’s Young Physicians Section. Additionally, as the Pennsylvania Medical Society
 52 makes efforts to attract new members, particularly those physicians early in their careers, extending
 53 eligibility increases the pool of potential members to the Early Career Physicians Section.
 54

1 Upon further research, but after Proposed Bylaws Amendment Subject Three was already placed in the
2 2017 House of Delegates Official Call, it was discovered that the eligibility requirements to the American
3 Medical Association's Young Physicians Section were revised to now include all active physician members
4 who are under 40 years of age or in the first eight (8) years of professional endeavor after residency and
5 fellowship training.
6 Your committee heard testimony in favor of this proposed bylaws amendment with the proviso that the
7 amendment be changed from seven (7) to eight (8) years to align eligibility with that of the American
8 Medical Association's Young Physicians Section.
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10 Per your direction, any action regarding this amendment will be deferred to the 2018 House of Delegates.

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Respectfully submitted,

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