



***ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY***

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**Emergency Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

**April 06, 2020**

The Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy met on Monday, April 06, 2020, via teleconference, for the purpose of reviewing emergency licensing provisions in the COVID-19 Pandemic. The following Board members were present by telephone: Vernon Johnson, Chair; William S. Roberts, Jr., Vice-Chair; Ronda Hood, Member; and Ed Goodwin, Member. Board member not present was Dr. William P. Saliski, Jr. Also present via telephone was Cindy Edgar, Executive Director to the Board, and Neva Conway, Assistant Attorney General.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. with a quorum established in the following Members: Vernon Johnson, William S. Roberts, Jr., Ronda Hood, and Ed Goodwin.

The meeting was advertised on the Board's website as well as on the Secretary of State's website in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Chair Johnson suggested that the Board forego the reading of the minutes of the March 20, 2020, Board Meeting until the next meeting.

The Board identified the need to provide temporary licenses to upcoming graduates who will not have access to NBRC credentialing examinations. It was agreed that graduates should be allowed to apply for an Emergency Temporary License that would be valid for ninety days, at the end of which they could apply for a regular temporary license. This provision would remove the requirement for proof of registration for the NBRC exam until such time as the testing centers reopen. The motion was made by Mr. Goodwin to make an Emergency Temporary

License available to upcoming graduates. Ms. Hood seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

The Board identified the need to allow Respiratory Therapists with Alabama Licenses which have expired to be reinstated during the State of Emergency. It was agreed that those Respiratory Therapists who have had an Alabama License which lapsed within five years could have their license reinstated for a period of ninety days. The license fee, reinstatement fee, and continuing education requirements would be waived. The applicant would still be responsible for the \$25.00 Application Fee and the \$45.00 background check fee. Ms. Hood made a motion to draw up an Emergency Reinstatement for Lapsed Alabama Licenses. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

The Board identified the need to grant license to Respiratory Therapists that are licensed in other states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board examined reciprocity requirements of other medical boards in Alabama and surrounding states. It was agreed that an Emergency Licensure by Reciprocity was needed. The Emergency License would be valid for ninety days. The Board agreed to waive all fees except the \$25.00 Application Fee and the \$45.00 background check fee. Applicants would be required to provide an official letter of verification of licensure in good standing as a respiratory therapist under the laws of another state or territory, provide current valid NBRC credential, pass a background check, provide proof of citizenship or legal presence in the United States, and submit a recent photo from not longer than six months. Ms. Hood made a motion to draw up an Emergency Licensure by Reciprocity provision with the stipulations aforementioned. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Ms. Hood made the recommendation that all Emergency Licenses be created with an E as prefix to make it easier to identify the licenses as they expire.

At 2:23 p.m. Chair Johnson recessed the meeting until 4:00 p.m. to allow Ms. Edgar and Attorney Conway to make the written revisions and send them to the Board for review.

Chair Johnson reconvened the Board at 4:00 p.m. All previous attendees were present.

The Board adopted 798-X-5-.17 ER COVID 19 Emergency Temporary License Requirement as follows: Recent graduates of a respiratory therapy education program accredited by CoARC under CAAHEP or successor organizations may be issued a temporary license to practice until such time as they achieve the CRT or

RRT credential. The emergency temporary license for a recent respiratory therapist graduate is valid for 90 days. The respiratory therapist graduate shall have completed an application and paid all necessary fees. Application for a temporary license shall be made within 30 days of graduation. Applicant must submit a recent photo taken within the past six months. License numbers issued pursuant to this provision will include an E with the license number. The motion to accept was made by Mr. Roberts. Mr. Goodwin seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

The Board adopted 798-X-5-.18 ER COVID 19 Emergency Reinstatement for Lapsed Alabama Licenses as follows: An Alabama Respiratory Therapist license which lapsed within five years may be reinstated upon submission of a completed application, a clear background check and compliance with the following:

1. Payment of a Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollar application fee;
2. Payment of a Forty-five (\$45.00) background check fee; and
3. The licensing period shall be for ninety (90) days.
4. Applications under this provision will be processed until the end to the COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency as determined by the Governor.
5. Submit a recent photo of applicant taken within the past six months

License numbers issued pursuant to this provision will include an E with the license number.

Mr. Goodwin made a motion to accept the provision. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

The Board adopted 798-X-5-.19 ER COVID 19 Emergency Licensure by Reciprocity as follows: A 90 day Alabama Respiratory Therapy License will be granted to individuals who meet the following;

- (1) Provide an official letter of license verification in good standing as a respiratory therapist under the laws of another state or territory;
- (2) Provide verification of current NBRC credential; and
- (3) pass a background check
- (4) provide proof of citizenship or legal presence in the United States
- (5) Submit a completed application with \$25.00 Application fee and a \$45.00 background check fee.
- (6) Submit a recent photo of applicant taken within the past six months

License numbers issued pursuant to this provision will include an E with the license number.

Ms. Hood made a motion to accept the provision. Mr. Goodwin seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

The formal revisions will be provided to all necessary agencies for publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vernon Johnson, Chairman

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William S. Roberts, Jr., Vice-Chair



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Cindy Edgar, Recorder