

About the NC Medical Board (NCMB)

The NCMB is funded solely through the fees it collects, and it operates outside the state budget. It does not receive any government funding. The Board does not participate in the State Health Plan or State Retirement Plan.

The proposed fee adjustments are necessary to ensure the Board can continue protecting patients, processing licenses efficiently, investigating complaints promptly, and maintaining technology, staffing, and investigative systems capable of meeting North Carolina's growing healthcare demands.

Sustained growth in licensing and enforcement activity

The NCMB has experienced unprecedented growth in all aspects of its work since the last increase in physician application and renewal fees in 2016. In that time, the NCMB has seen:

- A 40% increase in the total licensee population
- A 74% increase in the number of professional licenses issued
- A 79% increase in the total number of complaints from patients and the public
- A 61% increase in the total number of enforcement cases opened
- In January 2026, the Board implemented the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and the Internationally-Trained Physician Employee (ITPE) license. These initiatives expanded pathways for qualified physicians to practice in North Carolina and significantly increased licensing activity.
- Since January, the Board has issued more than 2,000 licenses through the IMLC.

To manage higher licensing volume, complaint intake, enforcement activity, and investigative responsibilities, beginning in 2022, the Board expanded staffing after years of operating with relatively stable personnel levels.

The Board has prioritized operational efficiency and process modernization. For example, despite substantial growth in license applications, the Board reduced average licensing processing times by more than 60 days since December 2025.

For FY 26 the Board approved hiring an additional 12 positions, including 8 new positions in the licensing department. To date, 10 positions have been hired. (*A list of new FY26 positions is attached.*)

NCMB Requested Fee Increase

Additional revenue generated by the proposed fee adjustments will support timely application processing, prompt complaint review, effective investigations, staff recruitment and retention, and continued investments in technology that improve efficiency.

	Year of Last Increase	Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee Increase
Physicians	2016	Application	\$400	\$550
		Endorsement	---	\$825
		Renewal	\$250	\$350
RTL	2005	Application	\$100	\$125
		Endorsement	---	---
		Renewal	\$125	\$150
PAs ¹	2019	Application	\$230	\$325
		Endorsement	---	\$500
		Renewal	\$140	\$200
AAs	2007	Application	\$150	\$200
		Endorsement	---	\$300
		Renewal	\$150	\$200
Perfusionists	2005	Application	\$350	(\$350) \$400
		Provisional	\$175	\$200
		Renewal	\$175	\$200/yr*

* Perfusionist have a biennial renewal; in the proposal it will be written as ~~(\$350)~~ \$400 every two years.

¹ Physician assistant application and renewal fees were last increased in 2019 via the rulemaking process. See 21 NCAC 32S .0202; .0204. After this increase, the legislature passed S.L. 2019-191, ss. 13, 45 eliminating the Board's authority to set fees pursuant to rules; but retaining the applicability of any fees set prior to June 1, 2019. See N.C. Gen. Stat. 90-5.1(c). PA fees set by rule in 2019 were codified by S.L. 2025-37, ss. 4(c), 4(d).

2026 New Hires:

These positions directly support the Board's statutory responsibilities to process applications efficiently, investigate complaints promptly, and protect North Carolina patients through effective oversight.

Licensing Department

- Credentialing Coordinators (3)
- Senior Credentialing Coordinator
- Senior Credentialing Assistant
- Licensing Investigator
- Applicant Ambassador (2)

Administrative Investigations (Complaints/Malpractice)

- Health Information Coordinator
- Investigative Coordinator
- Quality of Care Paralegal

Office of Medical Director

- Associate Medical Director