

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD ORDER POSTPONING BACKGROUND CHECK
LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person-to-person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 116 on March 10, 2020, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for the entire State of North Carolina based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Medical Board (“NCMB”) is an agency of the State of North Carolina organized under Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is charged with the responsibility for licensing physicians, physician assistants, anesthesiologist assistants and perfusionists to practice in North Carolina and regulating such practice in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a licensing application background check requirement for the vast majority of licenses that the NCMB issues; and

WHEREAS, the NCMB has received information that, as a result of COVID-19, certain agencies and organizations who customarily perform fingerprinting services for applicants in association with background checks are no longer performing these services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the NCMB to process license applications and issue licenses in a responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, the NCMB met on March 18, 2020, and discussed this subject at length and the possibility of postponing the license application background check requirement for all licenses the NCMB regulates; and

WHEREAS, doing so will allow applicants who have otherwise completed all other licensure requirements to receive their license without undue delay, which will assist in battling COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the NCMB has authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-12.5 to take this action in order to permit the provision of emergency health services to the public; and

WHEREAS, the NCMB voted to take this action on March 18, 2020, for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina and the United States of America.

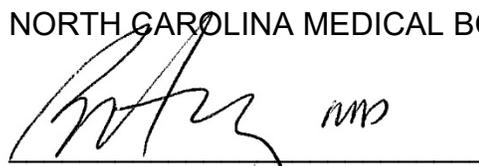
NOW, THEREFORE, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The NCMB shall postpone the licensing application background check requirements for all licenses the NCMB regulates until such time as the NCMB's Chief Executive Officer determines that it is reasonable to discontinue the postponement.
2. If an applicant meets all other requirements for licensure during this background check postponement period, a license will be issued.
3. A list of every license issued during this postponement period shall be maintained by the NCMB to ensure that all of these applicants obtain a background check at a later date to be determined by NCMB Executive staff after the postponement is discontinued.
4. This Order shall be effective as of the date the NCMB voted to take this action on March 18, 2020.

This the 31st day of March, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:

Handwritten signature of Bryant A. Murphy, M.D. in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes the initials 'BAM'.

Bryant A. Murphy, M.D.
President