

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS CHAPTER  
500-5, CONTINUING PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION, RULE 500-5-.01,  
CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 500-5, Continuing Podiatric Medical Education, Rule 500-5-.01, Continuing Education Hours (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being disseminated to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website [www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/podiatry](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/podiatry), or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on July 15, 2016, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on July 8, 2016. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Director, Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-7127.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on July 15, 2016 at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendment to 500-2-.02 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, and 43-35-15.

At its meeting July 31, 2015, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed

rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, and 43-35-15.

Additionally, at its meeting June 10, 2015, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, and 43-35-15, to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of podiatry.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 15 day of April, 2016.



Lisa W. Durden  
Director  
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 15 APR 16

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PODIATRY EXAMINERS RULE FOR CHAPTER 500-5, CONTINUING PODIATRIC  
MEDICAL EDUCATION, RULE 500-5-.01, CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this rule amendment is to further define requirements for continuing education hours.

**Main Features:** Further clarify 500-5-.01

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS  
RULE FOR CHAPTER 500-5, CONTINUING PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION,  
RULE 500-5-.01, CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS**

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

**500-5-.01 Continuing Education Hours. Amended.**

(1) The purpose of continuing education for podiatrists is to maintain and enhance the professional competence of podiatrists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.

(2) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a podiatrist must certify to the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners the completion of not less than fifty (50) hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two (2) years prior to the license expiration date. ~~In the event a podiatrist fails to certify completion of continuing education hours at the time of renewal of his/her license, the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners will not process his/her request to renew his/her license until continuing education requirements are met.~~

(a) No more than ten (10) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and ~~said online such~~ courses must be approved by ~~CPME~~ (Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME)).

(b) No more than ten (10) hours shall be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source. ~~from the AOA (American Osteopathic Association) and/or the AMA (American Medical Association) approved continuing medical education providers.~~

(c) At least thirty (30) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the ~~CPME~~ (Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME)) and/or ~~GPMA~~ (Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA)) and must be obtained live (in person).

(3) A podiatrist who has obtained a Georgia license by reciprocity or by examination, and who must renew his or her Georgia license for the first time, shall obtain the following number of continuing education hours prior to renewal of the license:

(a) If the licensed was issued during the first six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from (September of every the odd numbered year to the end of the following February, of every even numbered year) of the biennium renewal cycle shall be required to obtain the full fifty (50) hours of continuing education shall be required for renewal;  
(b) if the licensed was issued during the following twelve (12) months of the biennial renewal period, from (March of everythe even numbered year to February of everythe odd numbered year) of the licensure period, biennium renewal cycle, he/she shall be required to obtain thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall be required for license renewal;  
(c) if the licensed was issued during the last six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from (March of everythe odd numbered year to August of everythe odd numbered year,) of the biennium renewal cycle, he/she licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that biennialum renewal period only licensing cycle and no continuing education hours shall be required to renew the license.

(4) This rule ~~will~~shall become effective ~~with~~during the 2013 -2015 renewal cycle.

Authority O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, and 43-35-15.

~~Authority O.C.G.A. Sec.s 43-35-4, 43-35-5(b), 43-35-9, 43-35-15. **History.** Original Rule entitled "General Requirements" adopted. F. Sept. 7, 1989; eff. Sept. 27, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 15, 1995; eff. Jun. 4, 1995. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Continuing Education Hours" adopted. F. May 7, 2012; eff. May 27, 2012.~~

**500-5-.01 Continuing Education Hours. Amended.**

(1) The purpose of continuing education hours for podiatrists is to maintain and enhance the professional competence of podiatrists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.

(2) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a podiatrist must certify to the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners the completion of not less than fifty (50) hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two (2) years prior to the license expiration date.

(a) No more than ten (10) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).

(b) No more than ten (10) hours shall be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.

(c) At least thirty (30) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) and must be obtained live (in person).

(3) A podiatrist who has obtained a Georgia license by reciprocity or by examination, and who must renew his or her Georgia license for the first time, shall obtain the following number of continuing education hours prior to renewal of the license:

(a) If the license was issued during the first six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from September of the odd numbered year to the end of the following February, the full fifty (50) hours of continuing education shall be required for renewal;

(b) If the license was issued during the following twelve (12) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the even numbered year to February of the odd numbered year of the licensure period, thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall be required for the license renewal;

(c) If the license was issued during the last six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the odd numbered year to August of the odd numbered year, the licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that biennial licensing cycle and no continuing education hours shall be required to renew the license.

(4) This rule shall become effective with the 2013 -2015 renewal cycle.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, and 43-35-15.