

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS**  
**Board WebEx Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, October 17, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners met via WebEx on Friday, October 17, 2025. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Gregory Kramer, DPM, Chairman  
Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM, Vice Chair  
Dr. Rupal Gupta, DPM, Board Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor  
Sherry Strong, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

**Board Members Absent**

No Members absent.

**Office of Attorney General**

Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

**Visitors Present**

Marit Sivertson, Executive Director, Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA)

**Call to Order**

Dr. Kramer established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda**

Dr. Giovinco motioned, Dr. Kramer seconded, seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

**Open Session Minutes – July 11, 2025 Board WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Gupta motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the July 11, 2025 Open Session Board WebEx Meeting minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: July 2, 2025 – October 9, 2025**

Dr. Giovinco motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

**Discussion – Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) – Annual Update - FY 2025-2026**

The Board accepts the correspondence regarding FPMB as information.

**Discussion – Senate Bills**

- 1. SB 125 – CE Tracking Solution Requirement**
- 2. SB 153 – Spouses of Military**

Ms. Price reviewed new legislative action that will affect the Board. She stated that because of SB 125 and SB 153, the agency has had to make some changes as it relates to the processing of podiatry applications for licensure as well as for renewal applications. She reported that SB 153 addresses military spouses and language within SB 105 addresses continuing education tracking. She continued that prior to the current Board appointments, the previous Board members expressed an interest in engaging CE Broker services for licensees to report their continuing competence, making the coursework more accessible to the staff and the Board for auditing purposes. In SB 125 there was language passed that now requires any licensing board that has a continuing education requirement to utilize the continuing education tracking solution that is selected by the Office of Secretary of State. There was a

bidding process that took place, CE Broker won the bid, and they will become the vendor for our offices CE Tracking Solution. The bill was signed into law and will go into effect January 1, 2026. Information regarding this requirement will go out to licensees as well as there being information posted on Board website.

She continued that there are new considerations for licensing active-duty military, transitioning service members and their spouses in SB 153 that the Board will also need to review as it relates to a few of the current rules on the agenda today.

The Board accepts the correspondence regarding Senate Bills as information.

**Discussion – Board Rules Notice of Intent for Rules Hearing – BR 500-2-.03, BR 500-5-.02, & BR 500-8-.01**

The Board must review the following rules which have been impacted by recent legislative action. If the Board votes to move forward with the rule amendments, and they receive a Memorandum of Authority from the Attorney General's Office, the rules will go forward for a Public Rules Hearing at the January 23, 2026 meeting.

**1. Rule 500-2-.03. Endorsement Applications for Spouses of Service Members\_10.17.2025**

**Rule 500-2-.03. Endorsement Applications for Spouses of Service Members**

- (1) A spouse of a service member or transitioning service member who is stationed within the State of Georgia may engage in the practice podiatry without being licensed if the applicant:
  - (a) Has submitted an application for an expedited license by endorsement and associated fees as required by the Board.
  - (b) Holds a current license to practice as a podiatrist that was issued by another state or jurisdiction.
  - (c) Is in good standing and is not the subject of an investigation or a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board in such other state.
  - (d) Has provided verification of the military orders of the service member or transitioning service member.
- (2) If the Board has received the application, associated fees, and the supporting documentation necessary to verify all requirements have been met:
  - (a) The spouse of a service member or of a transitioning service member will not be subject to disciplinary action for practicing without a license in the state while the application is under review; and,
  - (b) The expedited license by endorsement shall be issued no later than 30 days from the date of receipt.
- (3) If the applicant subject to this rule is found to have violated any of the recognized standards of podiatry; or knowingly made any misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations while practicing podiatry or in filing any application with any board, the Board may, in its discretion, investigate and revoke the applicant's exemption from licensure.

Ms. Price reviewed SB 153 for which the amendments on Board Rule 500-2-.03. Endorsement Applications for Spouses of Service Members are based upon and is now a statutory requirement.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 500-2-.03. Endorsement Applications for Spouses of Service Members upon licensees. They determined the economic impact will be minimal and positive, especially that spouses of military or transitioning service members will have their application expedited which will in turn service the population more quickly.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion 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 rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of the statutes.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of the statute 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, business, and member of the public in the same manner in the field of Podiatry.

## **2. Rule 500-5-.02. Continuing Education Reporting and Auditing\_10.17.2025**

### **Rule 500-5-.02. Continuing Education Medical Reporting and Auditing**

- (1) At the time a license to practice podiatric medicine is renewed, the applicant must have earned the required continuing medical education (CME) credit hours for license renewal.
- (2) The renewal applicant must report the accumulated continuing credit hours, titles, where the courses were obtained, and the certificate of completion with the number of approved CME credits/hours in the continuing education tracking solution approved by the Office of Secretary of State for no less than three (3) renewal periods or six (6) years from the date of attendance.
  - (a) For the purposes of this requirement, the Office of the Secretary of State adopts the utilization of CE Broker, Inc.
  - (b) Every licensee or applicant subject to this rule shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their CME record retained within the online database for the purpose of auditing and verifying completion of the Board's CME requirements.
- (3) The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners ("Board") shall conduct random audits of CME hours.
  - (a) Audits conducted before license expiration date. Licensees whose renewal applications are selected for CME hours audit before the license expiration date must submit ensure records of attendance and supporting documents for CME hours obtained before a licensee's renewal application is completed and entered into the approved continuing education tracking solution.
    - (1) If an audit of the license renewal application shows that the number of CME hours or documentation for CME hours required for renewal is deficient, documentation satisfactory to the Board shall be submitted prior to granting renewal of the license.
    - (2) The Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee based upon the outcome of an audit and may require, as a condition of granting renewal, that the licensee agree to terms and conditions that include, but are not limited to, the following:
      - (i) A fine of \$50.00 per unsubstantiated or deficient credit hour;

- (ii) Proof satisfactory to the Board of completion of all deficient CME hours, none of which may be used to satisfy the CME requirement of any subsequent renewal cycle;
  - (iii) To comply with and satisfy all terms and conditions required for license renewal imposed by the Board prior to the end of the late renewal period;
  - (iv) Notice that a failure to comply with all the Board's terms and conditions by the end of the late renewal period may result in revocation of the license; and
  - (v) Additional sanctions and penalties based upon the facts and circumstances as determined by the Board.
- (b) Audits conducted after license expiration date. After a license is renewed, an audit may be conducted of CME hours submitted in connection with the license renewal application. Licensees whose renewal applications are selected for CME hours audit after license renewal must submit upon request records of attendance and supporting documents for the CME hours obtained for license renewal into the approved continuing education tracking solution.
- (1) The Board may take disciplinary action against a license if the licensee fails to certify or submit adequate proof of completed CE hours, or if the CME documentation submitted is incorrect, false, or fraudulent.
  - (2) The Board's disciplinary action against a licensee based upon the outcome of an audit may include the suspension of the renewed license and the imposition of terms and conditions that include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - (i) A fine of \$50.00 per unsubstantiated credit hour;
    - (ii) Proof satisfactory to the Board documenting the completion of all deficient CME hours, none of which may be used to satisfy the CME requirement of any subsequent renewal cycle;
    - (iii) A provision stating all terms and conditions shall be satisfied prior to the end of the late renewal period and/or prior to the lifting of license suspension and restoration of the license to active status; and,
    - (iv) Notice that a failure to comply with the Board's terms and conditions by the end of the late renewal period may result in revocation of the license.

- (4) The submission of a false statement on a license renewal application that the CME hours requirement has been met, after substantiation thereof, may result in the revocation of a license by the Board.

Ms. Price reviewed SB 105 for which the amendments on Board Rule 500-5-.02. Continuing Education Reporting and Auditing are based upon and is now a statutory requirement. She indicated that the purpose of the amendments to this rule will be to carry out policy objectives and inform licensees of this requirement of law which cannot be found in the areas of law most frequented by applicants and licensees

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 500-5-.02. Continuing Education Reporting and Auditing upon licensees. The economic impact on licensees is minimal as the CE Broker account is free. Licensees have the option to pay for professional or concierge service. Using CE Broker will expedite the renewal process if all continuing education is pre-recorded into CE Broker as required. The only potentially negative impact is for those who may not have internet to load their certificates, which is negligible compared to the benefit.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion 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 rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of the statutes.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of the statute 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, business, and member of the public) in the same manner in the field of Podiatry.

### **3. Rule 500-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct**

#### **Rule 500-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct. Amended**

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners has the authority to refuse to grant or to grant a license to an applicant, or to discipline a podiatrist licensed in the State of Georgia if that individual has engaged in unprofessional conduct. For the purpose of the enforcement and implementation of this rule, unprofessional conduct is defined as, but not limited to, practicing or aiding in the following:

- (a) Violating any order of the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners;
- (b) Violating a statute, law, or any rule or regulation of this state, any other state, the United States, or any other lawful authority, without regard to whether the violation is criminally punishable, which statute, law or rule or regulation relates to or in part regulates the practice of podiatry, when the licensee or applicant knows or should know that such action is a violation of such statute, law, or rule.
- (c) Violating any Consent Order entered into with the Georgia State Board of Podiatry examiners or any other licensing board.
- (d) Violating any statutes and/or rules relating to or regulating the practice of podiatry including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The Georgia Podiatry Act (O.C.G.A. T. 43, Ch. 34);
  2. The Georgia Controlled Substances Act (O.C.G.A. T. 17, Ch. 13, Art. 2);
  3. The Georgia Dangerous Drug Act (O.C.G.A. T. 16 Ch. 13, Art. 3);
  4. The Federal Controlled Substances Act (21 USCA, Ch. 13);
  5. The Health Care Practitioners Truth and Transparency Act (O.C.G.A. T. 43, Ch. 1, Art. 33);
  6. The Rules and Regulations of the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners;
  7. The Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy, Ch. 480, Rules and Regulation of the State of Georgia, particularly those relating to the prescribing and dispensing of prescription drugs, Chapter 480-28.
  8. The Code of Federal Regulation Relating to Controlled Substances (21 C.F.R. Par. 1306); and
  9. O.C.G.A. 31-33 Health Records.
- (e) Been convicted of any felony or of any crime involving moral turpitude in the courts of this state or any other state, territory or country or in the courts of the United States. As used in this paragraph, the term "felony" shall include any offense which, if committed in this state, would be deemed a felony, without regard to its designation elsewhere; and as used in this paragraph, the term "conviction" shall be deemed to include a finding or verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty, or plea of nolo contendere, regardless of whether an appeal of the conviction has been sought;
- (f) Knowingly performing any act which in any way aids, assists, procures, advises, or encourages any unlicensed person or any licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked by the board to practice podiatry or to practice outside the scope of any disciplinary limitation placed upon the licensee by the board;
- (g) Practicing fraud, forgery, deception, or conspiracy in connection with an examination for licensure, an application, license renewal or advertisements;
- (h) Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in connection with the filing of any insurance claim or advertisements;
- (i) Failing to maintain appropriate records whenever controlled drugs are prescribed. Appropriate records, at a minimum, shall contain the following:
1. The patient's name and address;

2. The date, drug name, drug quantity, and diagnosis for all controlled drugs; and
  3. Record concerning the patient's history.
- (j) Prescribing for habitual drug users in the absence of substantial pediatric purpose;
  - (k) Any departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing podiatric practice;
  - (l) Committing any act of nonconsensual sexual intimacies, abuse, misconduct or exploitation related to the licensee's practice of podiatry;
  - (m) Failing to conform to current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (C.D.C.) for the transmission of Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B. Virus to patients. It is the responsibility of all currently licensed podiatrists to maintain familiarity with these recommendations, which are considered by the Board to be minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing pediatric practice. (Copies of the guidelines may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Human Resources, or from the Board.);
  - (n) Failing to include the podiatrist's name and the type of license, to include but not limited to "Doctor of Podiatric Medicine," "D.P.M.," "Foot Doctor," "Foot Specialist," "Foot Surgeon," "Foot and Ankle Surgeon," within advertisements; and,
  - (o) Including or referencing medical or medical specialty titles in advertisements.

The Board reviewed amendments to Board Rule 500-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct. They determined the amendments will carry out policy objectives so licensees will be made aware of the guidelines regarding advertising.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 500-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct upon licensees. They determined that the only potential cost is for those who will be required to change the wording in their advertising. This follows truth and transparency in advertising for all interested parties.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion 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 rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of the statutes.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of the statute 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, business, and member of the public) in the same manner in the field of Podiatry.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Rule 500-2-.03. Endorsement Applications for Spouses of Service Members, Rule 500-5-.02. Continuing Education Reporting and Auditing, and Rule 500-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority, and if there are no objections, vote to post for hearing.

### **2026 Board Meeting Dates**

Meetings are scheduled for Fridays at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx (unless otherwise indicated on the Board website closer to the meeting date).

January 23, 2026  
April 24, 2026  
July 10, 2026  
October 16, 2026

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the 2026 Board meeting dates as presented.

### **Annual Board Member Elections**

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the current Board member positions and to appoint Dr. Gupta as the National Conference Representative.

- Chair: Dr. Gregory Kramer, DPM
- Vice Chair: Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM
- Rules Committee: Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM
- Applications Cognizant: Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM
- National Conference Representative: Dr. Rupal Gupta, DPM

### **Executive Director's Report – A. Price**

The Executive Director's Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, and complaints/compliance matters. Other relevant topics included:

- Vacant Board Seat
- PLB Updates

Ms. Price informed the Board that she did submit their request to the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) concerning possible amendments to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-35-12(4) and/or 43-35-11 of the Georgia Podiatry Practice Act during the next legislative session and she deferred to Ms. Sivertson to respond.

Ms. Sivertson stated GPMA is declining to move forward with the Board's request during the 2026 legislative session as they are introducing other legislation which she is not at liberty to discuss at this time.

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

### **Board President's Report**

No report presented.

**Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, pending cases, investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those Board members present: Dr. Kramer, Dr. Giovinco, and Dr. Gupta.**

**At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Friday, October 17, 2025, Dr. Kramer declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Executive Session Minutes – July 11, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the July 11, 2025 Executive Session Board WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Attorney General’s Report – C. Pake**

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General’s report and advice as presented.

**Cognizant Summary Report – J. Giovinco, DPM**

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

- POD250012**      Close the case. Insufficient evidence. Dr. Giovinco recused himself from the vote.
- POD260001**      Close the case. Insufficient evidence. Dr. Giovinco recused himself from the vote.
- POD250002**      Close the case. No Jurisdiction and insufficient evidence.
- POD260003**      Close the case. No Jurisdiction
- POD250026**      Close the case. No Jurisdiction and insufficient evidence.
- POD250025**      Refer back to Investigations to obtain records as discussed.
- POD250019**      Close the case due to insufficient evidence to initiate an investigation.
- POD250016**      Issue a Mitigating Circumstance Letter with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

**Complaint Status Report**

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Complaint Status Report as presented

**Application for Board Review**

- Applicant 4317349**      Dr. Giovinco motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to renew the license. Dr. Kramer recused himself from the vote.
- Applicant 4333275**      Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Gupta seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding alcohol. Dr. Giovinco recused himself from the vote.

**Examination-Arrest**

Dr. Kramer motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

**Applicant 4341759** Issue the license.

**Requests for Inactive Status**

**Applicant 4295214** Approve the inactive status application upon receipt of a signed written request to withdraw the renewal application.

**Applicant 4338228** Approve request for Inactive Status.

**Reactivation**

**Applicant 4315948** Reactivate license.

**Renewals**

**Applicant 4318581** Table pending additional information. If rec'd, refer to the Attorney General's Office for a Public Consent Agreement with terms and conditions as discussed.

**Applicant 4318177** Renew the license.

**Applicant 4322339** Renew the license.

**Adjournment** With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes approved on:** January 23, 2026

**GREGORY KRAMER, DPM**  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question.

Comes now Gregory J. Kramer, DVM the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the GA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS Board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On October 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was:  
O.C.G.A. §43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h)
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:  
To deliberate applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me  
This 20<sup>th</sup> day of October

Linda Lee Carver  
Notary Public

