

1 SJR62  
2 191376-1  
3 By Senators Melson, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn,  
5 Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston,  
6 Marsh, McClendon, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Sanders, Sanford,  
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 13-FEB-18

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8 URGING THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL SPECIALITIES TO  
9 HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE BURDEN AND COST OF THE  
10 MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ON ALABAMA PHYSICIANS.  
11

12 WHEREAS, Alabama physicians support lifelong  
13 learning, self-regulation and the highest standards for  
14 medical care; and

15 WHEREAS, some physicians, in addition to maintaining  
16 state medical licensure, also voluntarily pursue board  
17 certification within their respective medical specialities to  
18 further their education, knowledge, experience, and skills;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, up until the American Board of Medical  
21 Specialities (ABMS) created its Maintenance of Certification  
22 (MOC) program, medical specialty board certification was  
23 largely held as a lifetime credential; and

24 WHEREAS, Alabama physicians desiring to maintain  
25 their specialty board certification believe the current MOC  
26 program neither reflects the realities of their individual

1 practice environments nor does it improve quality of medical  
2 care; and

3 WHEREAS, the increasingly burdensome requirements of  
4 MOC, which include significant time away from clinical  
5 practice and considerable financial expenditures necessary for  
6 board review courses and materials and travel to testing  
7 sites, have driven some physicians to drop board certification  
8 altogether; and

9 WHEREAS, ABMS member boards, in the opinion of  
10 Alabama physicians, have abused the privilege with which they  
11 have been entrusted by their diplomates through punitive  
12 application of MOC at the expense of Alabama physicians, their  
13 families, and ultimately, Alabama patients; and

14 WHEREAS, while speciality board certification  
15 remains technically voluntary, certification has increasingly  
16 become a requirement for hospital staff privileges and  
17 reimbursement; and

18 WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of  
19 Alabama adopted at its 2017 Annual Session an official policy  
20 supporting maintenance of skills and other efforts to improve  
21 quality of care but opposing "any further requirements for MOC  
22 as a condition of licensure, reimbursement, employment or  
23 admitting privileges at a hospital"; and

24 WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of  
25 Alabama's MOC Study Committee, recognizing the multitude of  
26 problems with the current AMBS MOC model, believes the  
27 National Board of Physicians and Surgeons should also be given

1 consideration by physicians seeking specialty board  
2 certification; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the ABMS is called upon to  
5 exhibit leadership and influence in encouraging its member  
6 boards to make immediate changes to their MOC progress, and  
7 changes should at a minimum include an end to mandatory  
8 high-stakes testing, creation of other pathways for  
9 recertification, and a significant reduction in cost and time  
10 required of physicians.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That while pursuit of  
12 federal or state legislative remedies remains a possibility,  
13 absent substantial improvement in MOC in the aforementioned  
14 areas, ABMS can likely expect further physician exodus en  
15 masse in favor of certifying boards with clinically relevant  
16 programs that foster lifelong learning in a non-punitive  
17 manner.

18 BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
19 resolution be sent to the American Board of Medical  
20 Specialities and each member of the Alabama Congressional  
21 Delegation.