March 24, 2005

S 1092. NC MEDICAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP REFORMS/REPORT. *TO CHANGE THE LAWS PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW PROCESS WHEREBY CERTAIN MEMBERS ARE ELECTED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD AND TO AMEND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE LAWS REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE*. Enacts new GS 90-3A as title indicates, giving all persons licensed to practice medicine and residing and practicing in NC the opportunity to vote in election of physician members of Board (was, appointed by Governor upon nomination by the NC Medical Society) and establishing nomination and election procedures. Amends GS 90-14(b) to authorize Board (was, required Board) to refer to the State Medical Society Physician Health and Effectiveness Committee all physicians who are significantly impaired by alcohol or drug addiction or mental illness. Provides that sexual misconduct does not constitute mental illness and limits physicians to two Committee referrals except in the case of license revocations or suspensions. Enacts new GS 90-14.13(e) to require that Board publish on public access Web site certain listed information about reports on malpractice claim settlements and that Board conduct an investigation of those physicians on which the Board has received at least two reports within the past fifteen years. Also requires that Board provide public with information on any medical malpractice damage awards or settlements against an individual physician in excess of three payouts over $100,000 within a 10-year period or any payout of more than $1 million. Amends GS 90-21.22 (peer review agreements) to require that certain peer review organizations report information to Board about physician's sexual misconduct or commission of a felony.

Intro. by Holloman.

Ref. to Health Care GS 90