

Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists

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O & P Board Update

Effective **March 1, 2014**, individuals fitting therapeutic shoes and individuals providing non-custom orthotic services to consumers in the State of Alabama are to be licensed by the Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists per the O & P Board's Administrative Codes and Regulations, Chapter 746-X-9 **Licensure of Therapeutic Shoe Fitters** and Chapter 746-X-10 **Licensure of Orthotic Fitters**. These rules can be found on the Board's web site www.apob.alabama.gov under **Rules**. Applications can be found on the Board's web site under **Lic. Applications**.

All applications are to be submitted to the Board by March 1, 2014.

Alabama O & P Legislation

The Executive Director and the President of the Board, Glenn Crumpton, met with Rep. Steve Clouse, Chairman of the House of Representatives General Fund Committee, to discuss Medicaid funding for O & P for the 2015 Fiscal Year, beginning October 1, 2014. We left the meeting with Rep. Clouse believing that he will support O & P in this regard. Tami Teague, lobbyist for the Alabama Prosthetic & Orthotic Association, was instrumental in getting us an appointment with Rep. Clouse and she has been working tirelessly to insure that O & P will be included in the Alabama Medicaid Agency's budget for 2015.

After our meeting with Rep. Clouse, Mrs. Teague provided us with a copy of a bill that will likely be introduced next week in the House of Representatives. This bill is in reference to the tax-exempt bill that was passed in 2013. This bill is to better clarify language from last year's tax-exempt bill and if passed the tax-exempt bill would go into effect August 1, 2014 rather than October 1, 2014. We believe that this is a bill that O & P should support as it only strengthens the current tax exempt bill for O & P.