



[townhall.virginia.gov](http://townhall.virginia.gov)

## Fast-Track Regulation Agency Background Document

<b>Agency name</b>	Board of Medicine, Department of Health Professions
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)</b>	18VAC85-110
<b>VAC Chapter title(s)</b>	Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Acupuncturists
<b>Action title</b>	Name changes of accrediting bodies
<b>Date this document prepared</b>	10/18/21

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1VAC7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

### Brief Summary

*Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.*

The definition for ACAOM, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is changed to ACAHM, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. The definition for CCAOM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is changed to CCAHM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. All sections of this chapter where those acronyms are used are amended accordingly.

### Acronyms and Definitions

*Define all acronyms used in this form, and any technical terms that are not also defined in the "Definitions" section of the regulation.*

N/A

### Statement of Final Agency Action

*Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.*

On October 14, 2021, the Board of Medicine amended 18VAC85-110-10 et seq., Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Acupuncturists.

### Mandate and Impetus

*Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, “mandate” has the same meaning as defined in Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), “a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part.”*

*As required by Virginia Code § 2.2-4012.1, also explain why this rulemaking is expected to be noncontroversial and therefore appropriate for the fast-track process.*

The impetus for this regulatory change was a recommendation from the Advisory Board on Acupuncture, which voted at its meeting on October 6, 2021 to request the amendments.

### Legal Basis

*Identify (1) the promulgating agency, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia and Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating agency to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency’s overall regulatory authority.*

Regulations are promulgated under the general authority of Chapter 24 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. Section 54.1-2400, which provides the Board of Medicine the authority to promulgate regulations to administer the regulatory system:

**§ 54.1-2400 -General powers and duties of health regulatory boards**  
*The general powers and duties of health regulatory boards shall be:*

6. To promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which are reasonable and necessary to administer effectively the regulatory system. Such regulations shall not conflict with the purposes and intent of this chapter or of Chapter 1 (§ [54.1-100](#) et seq.) and Chapter 25 (§ [54.1-2500](#) et seq.) of this title. ...

### Purpose

*Explain the need for the regulatory change, including a description of: (1) the rationale or justification, (2) the specific reasons the regulatory change is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens, and (3) the goals of the regulatory change and the problems it's intended to solve.*

---

The regulatory change is necessary to maintain currency with national educational standards for the health and safety of patients who will be seeking treatment from licensed acupuncturists.

### Substance

*Briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both. A more detailed discussion is provided in the "Detail of Changes" section below.*

---

The definition for ACAOM, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is changed to ACAHM, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. The definition for CCAOM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is changed to CCAHM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. All sections of this chapter (50, 60, and 80) where those acronyms are used are amended accordingly.

### Issues

*Identify the issues associated with the regulatory change, including: 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions; 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, include a specific statement to that effect.*

---

- 1) There is an advantage to the public if someone is looking for the updated names of accrediting bodies in Virginia regulation. There are no disadvantages.
- 2) There are no advantages or disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth.
- 3) There are no other pertinent matters of interest. The Director of the Department of Health Professions has reviewed the proposal and performed a competitive impact analysis. The Board is authorized under § 54.1-2400 to "*promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act which are reasonable and necessary to administer effectively the regulatory system.*"

### Requirements More Restrictive than Federal

*Identify and describe any requirement of the regulatory change which is more restrictive than applicable federal requirements. Include a specific citation for each applicable federal requirement, and a rationale for the need for the more restrictive requirements. If there are no applicable federal requirements, or no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements, include a specific statement to that effect.*

---

There are no applicable federal requirements.

**Agencies, Localities, and Other Entities Particularly Affected**

*Identify any other state agencies, localities, or other entities particularly affected by the regulatory change. "Particularly affected" are those that are likely to bear any identified disproportionate material impact which would not be experienced by other agencies, localities, or entities. "Locality" can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulation or regulatory change are most likely to occur. If no agency, locality, or entity is particularly affected, include a specific statement to that effect.*

Other State Agencies Particularly Affected - None

Localities Particularly Affected - None

Other Entities Particularly Affected - None

**Economic Impact**

*Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify all specific economic impacts (costs and/or benefits), anticipated to result from the regulatory change. When describing a particular economic impact, specify which new requirement or change in requirement creates the anticipated economic impact. Keep in mind that this is change versus the status quo.*

**Impact on State Agencies**

<p><i>For your agency:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including:                  a) fund source / fund detail;                  b) delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures; and                  c) whether any costs or revenue loss can be absorbed within existing resources</p>	<p>There are no projected costs or savings resulting from the change. As a special fund agency, the Board must generate sufficient revenue to cover its expenditures from non-general funds, specifically the renewal and application fees it charges to practitioners for necessary functions of regulation; The agency will incur no additional costs for mailings to the Public Participation Guidelines mailing lists, conducting a public hearing, and sending notice of final regulations to regulated entities.</p>
<p><i>For other state agencies:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><i>For all agencies:</i> Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.</p>	<p>None</p>

**Impact on Localities**

<p>Projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.</p>	<p>None</p>

**Impact on Other Entities**

Description of the individuals, businesses, or other entities likely to be affected by the regulatory change. If no other entities will be affected, include a specific statement to that effect.	A person who may be interested in pursuing an educational program in acupuncture and is reading regulations for requirements for licensure.
Agency's best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected. Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that: a) is independently owned and operated and; b) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	There is no estimate. There are approximately 50-55 new licenses issued each year – by examination or endorsement.
All projected costs for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities resulting from the regulatory change. Be specific and include all costs including, but not limited to: a) projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses; b) specify any costs related to the development of real estate for commercial or residential purposes that are a consequence of the regulatory change; c) fees; d) purchases of equipment or services; and e) time required to comply with the requirements.	There are no costs.
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	The only benefit is consistency with national terminology.

**Alternatives to Regulation**

*Describe any viable alternatives to the regulatory change that were considered, and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the regulatory change. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulatory change.*

This is an update to naming of national accrediting bodies; there is no alternative.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

*Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.1B of the Code of Virginia, describe the agency's analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum: 1) establishing less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; 2) establishing less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements; 3) consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements; 4) establishing performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulatory change.*

There is no regulatory flexibility if the Board wants to use current terminology and avoid confusion.

**Public Participation**

*Indicate how the public should contact the agency to submit comments on this regulation, and whether a public hearing will be held, by completing the text below.*

*As required by § 2.2-4011 of the Code of Virginia, if an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 30-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall: 1) file notice of the objections with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register and 2) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.*

If you are objecting to the use of the fast-track process as the means of promulgating this regulation, please clearly indicate your objection in your comment. Please also indicate the nature of, and reason for, your objection to using this process.

The Board of Medicine is providing an opportunity for comments on this regulatory proposal, including but not limited to (i) the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposal and any alternative approaches, (ii) the potential impacts of the regulation, and (iii) the agency's regulatory flexibility analysis stated in this background document.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so through the Public Comment Forums feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall web site at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail, email or fax to Elaine Yeatts, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233, Phone (804) 367-4688; Fax (804) 527-4434; [elaine.yeatts@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:elaine.yeatts@dhp.virginia.gov). In order to be considered, comments must be received by 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period.

**Detail of Changes**

*List all regulatory changes and the consequences of the changes. Explain the new requirements and what they mean rather than merely quoting the text of the regulation. For example, describe the intent of the language and the expected impact. Describe the difference between existing requirement(s) and/or agency practice(s) and what is being proposed in this regulatory change. Use all tables that apply, but delete inapplicable tables.*

*If an existing VAC Chapter(s) is being amended or repealed, use Table 1 to describe the changes between existing VAC Chapter(s) and the proposed regulation. If existing VAC Chapter(s) or sections are being repealed and replaced, ensure Table 1 clearly shows both the current number and the new number for each repealed section and the replacement section.*

Current chapter-	Current requirements in VAC	Change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of new requirements
------------------	-----------------------------	--

section number		
110-10	Sets out definitions used in the chapter	<p>The definition for ACAOM, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is changed to ACAHM, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. The definition for CCAOM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is changed to CCAHM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. All sections of this chapter (50, 60, and 80) where those acronyms are used are amended accordingly.</p> <p><i>Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) was approved as the new name for the Commission. Work is underway to complete all necessary administrative requirements</i></p> <p><i>The Council approved the name change in late 2020. No exact date was provided. Creation of new standards for programs offering complementary training in herbal medicine The purpose of the change in to identify with the increasing education in and emphasis on herbal medicines as opposed to “oriental medicine.”</i></p>