

Time Line for NYS O&P Licensure (2007)

The 2007-2008 legislative sessions began on January 3rd with Governor Spitzer's State of the State Address. The Legislature begins slowly, meeting only one or two days a week during the month. By the middle of the month both houses will likely have named Committee Chair's and members of all Legislative Committee's. The licensure legislation will be referred to the Higher Education Committee's in both Senate and Assembly. The Assembly Committee does not have a Chair at this time and we are waiting for the Assembly Speaker to name a new chair. Traditionally, committee's meet sporadically, if at all, during January.

The Governor will submit his budget to the legislature at the end of January. The Legislature will then begin hearings on the budget in February and negotiations between the Governor and Legislature will occupy a majority of their time until the beginning of the state fiscal year on April 1. During this period, legislative committee's will begin meeting but considering only a few bills at a time and most of them non-controversial.

Here is summarized time line of our strategy.

January

January 9. Submitted bill draft for changes (delete language allowing repairs etc...to be done without a prescription). Bill draft should be back by the end of the week or early next week.

Week of January 15. Meet with potential bill sponsors.

Week of Jan 22 or 29th. Bill introduced.

February-March

Once the licensure bill is introduced and printed it will take several weeks for other interested groups to identify the bill and to submit comments to the Legislature. These groups will likely contact the bill sponsors with their comments. The sponsors will share these comments with us and we will have the opportunity to refute their arguments against the bill (if any). That would be an appropriate time for AAOP members/supporters to contact their local legislators and to have interested AAOP members (President etc..) meet in Albany with the sponsors of the bill. We may also want to meet with other organizations that have commented on the bill.

April-June

After the budget has been adopted, the legislature will begin picking up the pace and considering more bills. Our goal will be to try and get the licensure bill to be considered by committee as quickly as possible. After a bill is introduced, it is referred to committee (sometimes more than one). The Committee Chair decides if and when to put a bill on an agenda for consideration by the committee. If the committee votes in favor of a bill it either goes to another committee or to the floor of the house for a vote (a bill can sit on the "floor" for weeks/months).

July-December

If the bill is passed by both houses it then goes to the Governor for his approval or veto. This process can also take months.

During the last weeks of session hundreds of bills are passed by the legislature, often in the dead of the night. When the Legislature is in session, the Governor has only 10 days to veto or sign a bill and couldn't possibly make informed decisions on hundreds of bills at a time. Bills that are passed are slowly sent to the Governor, over a period of months. If passed, we will use this time to meet with the Governor's staff, generate letters of support etc...

If signed into law we will then start working with the State Education Department to make sure that NYSAAOP is represented on the board and on the regulations that will be necessary to implement and enforce the licensing law.

SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO: (Make check payable to NYSAAOP/Licensure)
NYSAAOP, 1659 LINCOLN AVE, BOHEMIA, NY 11716