

State Board of Health Duties

The State Board of Health is to assume the leadership role in advising the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health in meeting the following functions:

- needs assessment
- statewide health objectives
- policy development
- assurance of access to necessary services

The board is composed of 17 persons, all of whom are appointed by the governor and one of whom must be a senior citizen 60 years of age or older. The board membership shall include five physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches – one representing a medical school faculty, one who is board certified in preventive medicine, and one who is engaged in private practice; a dentist; an environmental health practitioner; a local public health administrator; a local board of health member; a registered nurse; a veterinarian; a public health academician; a health care industry representative; a representative of the business community; a representative of the non-profit public interest community; and two citizens at large. All members must be residents of the state of Illinois.

The duties of the board shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- To advise the Department of ways to encourage public understanding and support of the Department's programs.
- To evaluate all boards, councils, committees, authorities, and bodies advisory to, or an adjunct of, the Department of Public Health or its director for the purpose of recommending to the director one or more of the following:
 - The elimination of bodies whose activities are not consistent with goals and objectives of the Department.
 - The consolidation of bodies whose activities encompass compatible programmatic subjects.
 - The restructuring of the relationship between the various bodies and their integration within the organizational structure of the Department.
 - The establishment of new bodies deemed essential to the functioning of the Department.

- To serve as an advisory group to the director for public health emergencies and control of health hazards.
- To advise the director regarding public health policy, and to make health policy recommendations regarding priorities to the governor through the director.
- To present public health issues to the director to make recommendations for the resolution of those issues.
- To recommend studies to delineate public health problems.
- To make recommendations to the governor through the director regarding the coordination of state public health activities with other state and local public health agencies and organizations.
- To report on or before February 1 of each year on the health of the residents of Illinois to the governor, the General Assembly, and the public.
- To review the final draft of all proposed administrative rules, other than emergency or preemptory rules and those rules that another advisory body must approve or review within a statutorily defined time period. The board shall review the proposed rules within 90 days of submission by the Department. The Department shall take into consideration any comments and recommendations of the board regarding the proposed rules prior to submission to the secretary of state for initial publication. If the Department disagrees with the recommendations of the board, it shall submit a written response outlining the reasons for not accepting the recommendations.
- To deliver to the governor for presentation to the General Assembly a State Health Improvement Plan. The first and second such plans shall be delivered to the governor on January 1, 2006, and on January 1, 2009, respectively, and then every four years thereafter.
 - The plan shall recommend priorities and strategies to improve the public health system and the health status of Illinois residents, taking into consideration national health objectives and system standards as frameworks for assessment. It shall also take into consideration priorities and strategies developed at the community level through the Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN) and any regional health improvement plans that may be developed. The plan will focus on prevention as a key strategy for long term health improvement in Illinois. The plan shall examine and make recommendations on the contributions and strategies of the public and private sectors for improving health

status and the public health system in the state. The plan shall make recommendations regarding priorities and strategies for reducing and eliminating health disparities in Illinois; including racial, ethnic, gender, age, socio economic and geographic disparities.

- The board shall hold at least three public hearings addressing drafts of the plan in representative geographic areas of the state.
- Upon the request of the governor, to recommend to the governor candidates for director of the Illinois Department of Public Health when vacancies occur in the position.
- To adopt bylaws for the conduct of its own business, including the authority to establish ad hoc committees to address specific public health programs requiring resolution.