

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 22, 1961

Geo. Frederick Noel, D. O.
Sec'y-Treas. Board of Osteopathic
Examination and Registration
Monument Square
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

Dear Dr. Noel:

We have your letter of June 20 requesting an opinion interpreting certain provisions of Revised Statutes Chapter 64. We would bring it to your attention that the provisions referred to in your letter are actually contained in Revised Statutes Chapter 71, section 6.

Your question would seem to be twofold. You ask whether or not the Board of Registration has the power to accept courses taken in Allopathic hospitals in satisfaction of the annual refresher course requirements contained in section 6. You ask further if the Board can accept postgraduate work in psychology performed at the University of Maine in satisfaction of this same requirement.

The law states that every Osteopathic physician in applying for a renewal of his license must satisfy the Board that he has attended at least two days of five hours each of an annual Osteopathic education program devoted to postgraduate instruction and training in osteopathy, surgery, and obstetrics, which program must be approved by the Board. The Board has discretion to approve similar courses conducted by the Maine Osteopathic Association or its equivalent, but the Board has no discretion to accept in satisfaction of this requirement courses in anything except osteopathy, surgery, and obstetrics. The discretion of the Board is limited to the approval of refresher courses taken in these three fields. Each Osteopath applying for a renewal of his license must show that he has attended such a refresher program of instruction, which program is conducted on an annual basis. The Board could, however, in its discretion, approve similar courses not necessarily conducted on an annual basis.

Geo. Frederick Neel, D. O.

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In answer to your specific inquiries, it is our opinion that the Board could recognize courses taken in Allopathic hospitals and clinics so long as these courses involved training in osteopathy, surgery, and obstetrics.

It is our further opinion that postgraduate work done in the field of psychology cannot under the law satisfy the requirements of section 5 and that the Board has no discretion to give recognition to such a course of study in order to satisfy the requirements of section 5.

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Tavenner
Assistant Attorney General

TWT:H