

HME Board Minutes

11:00am – CST

July 28, 2026

With proper and required notice having been provided to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office along with posting on the websites of the Alabama Secretary of State and the Alabama Board of Home Medical Equipment the meeting was held on Wednesday, July 28, 2026, at the Board office 60 Commerce Street – Suite 1400, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting has been called to order at 11:03 am. by Chairman Jason Jones.

A quorum was established and maintained; the following Board members were present:

Jason Jones, Jennifer Weathers, Robert Beard, Phil Kilbene, Michael Hadden, Henry Fulgham – 11:28 am, Dr. Danielle Powell – Via Zoom.

Also, present was Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, and Steve Herndon Board Legal Counsel from the Office of Attorney General.

After reading the agenda that was emailed prior to the meeting, the motion to approve the agenda was made by Jennifer Weathers, and seconded by Robert Beard, the board unanimously approved the agenda. After reading the minutes, there was a motion made by Michael Hadden, and seconded by Jennifer Weathers to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 15th meeting.

The Chair of the Board, Jones, thanked everyone for their attendance today. Jones then discussed activity on the federal level that 725 licenses had been suspended and another 100 were suspended due to fraud in the federal government. The federal government has clearly cut down on fraud and abuse in the industry. We will have the federal competitive bidding that will begin in January 2027 for many HME products. This is why the Board has seen an increase in people trying to figure out if they are exempt from our Alabama licensing or not. Jones discussed that he, Jennifer Weathers, and Claire met with Jon Linna from the AL Pharmacy Board, regarding the inspections of the oxygen tanks on both ends which is unnecessary. It is an additional fee of \$250 for any HME company to the Pharmacy Board. Currently, they are inspected by the companies, and then, the Pharmacy Boards comes to the HME facilities and charges and inspects a second time. This inspection has already been handled by one of the 12 companies that deliver the oxygen to the HME stores.

The Executive Director, Austin, presented her report on office and board matters. Austin stated that the Board is in the middle of its renewal period and that the process is running smoothly. She reported that approximately 244 licenses have been renewed, two new applications have been received, three changes of address have been submitted, and 25 audits have been completed so far during the renewal period. She also told the Board that all Harbor Freight locations have

withdrawn their Alabama licenses this year. The company stated they're not selling enough products, and what they may sale will be items not being reimbursed by insurance or Medicare.

Austin updated the board on the HME education outreach programs contract that should be before the Contract review Committee in August. She stated that she would know this by the end of the day. Austin stated she will now turn the board financial updates to Will Parker.

Will Parker presented the Financial Report and the performance update with a detailed status on the finances of the board. Parker stated the board and had a cash balance of \$452,300.67, and said that we are in good financial shape, healthy and streamlined. Parker stated that the renewal is ahead of last year, we sent the notices out two weeks earlier this year. Parker stated that board will be sending a second mailer in the next week to those who haven't renewed their license.

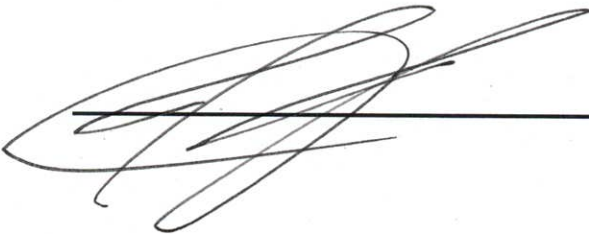
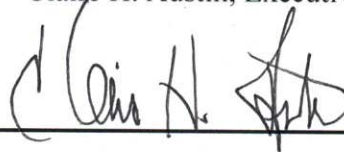
The Board legal counsel, Steve Herdon presented the rules changes that have been worked on by the Subcommittee that has met four times during the past three months. Steve read in its entirety the changes under 473-X-1-.01 under Definitions that have been suggested to the Board by the Committee. There was a roll call vote on the rule Changes for the Board. There was a motion by Henry Fulgham, and a second motion by Jennifer Weathers. Austin called the roll all members present voted in Favor of the Committees work for the rule changes. Voting Yes were Jason Jones, Robert Beard, Phil Kilbene, Michael Hadden, Jennifers Weathers, and Henry Fulgham. Dr. Powell couldn't vote because she attended via Zoom.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 15; however, we know that the Board will hold a meeting on October 29th after the Sunset Review Committee more than likely given most Board members will be in town for Sunset Committee hearing that morning.

Jason Jones said with no further business before the board, Robert Beard made the motion Phil Kilbene, seconded motion to adjourn. The board unanimously voted in favor of adjourning at 12:25pm.

Jason Jones, Chairman of Board

Claire H. Austin, Executive Director

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jason Jones, the Chairman of the Board.A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Claire H. Austin, the Executive Director.