

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

CB Report 1-13
Informational

INTRODUCED BY: MedChi Council on Bylaws

SUBJECT: Term Limits for AMA Delegates and Alternate Delegates

The Bylaws Committee met by conference call on Thursday, February 28. Drs. Pryor and Snyder, co-chairs, and Drs. Farah, Roca and York, members, participated. The Committee considered the following question posed by the Presidents of MedChi:

Please determine what the word “required” means as used in Bylaw 12.20 in view of the attached correspondence from Dr. Edwards, and provide an opinion to be reported to the House of Delegates as to whether she is eligible to run for another term as AMA delegate.

The Committee reviewed the text of the Bylaw, which reads as follows:

12.20 Term. Delegates and alternates to the American Medical Association shall serve for a term of two years beginning on July 1 of the year following their election. A delegate or alternate delegate may serve on the AMA delegation for no more than six (6) consecutive terms, as either a delegate or alternate delegate, unless that individual holds a position with the AMA that require he/she be a member of a delegation. The six consecutive terms begin with the election following the adoption of this bylaws change. (9/00)

The Committee noted that Dr. Edwards was first elected to the AMA delegation in 1997 to fill an unexpired term ending in 1998. The Committee took note of Dr. Edwards’s letter to Dr. Avin, President of MedChi (attached), in which she stated that the effectiveness of her position on the AMA Bylaws Council would be greatly diminished were she not also a voting member of the AMA House of Delegates. Drs. Pryor and Snyder, both of whom have served on the AMA delegation, agreed with Dr. Edwards’ description.

Accordingly, the Committee concluded unanimously that Dr. Edwards is required to be a member of the AMA House of Delegates in order to exercise the full responsibilities and privileges of her position on the AMA Bylaws Council and thus she is eligible to serve an additional term.

The Committee also determined that a clarifying amendment to the MedChi Bylaws would be appropriate and is reporting that separately.