

**FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - SUMMARY OF ISSUES
ACUPUNCTURE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS

FY 2010 All Non-General Funds Budget (less Federal Funds) **129,700**

AGENCY REDUCTION TARGET - ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS (w/o Federal Funds) **\$19,500**

FUND	Reductions Amount	Percent Reductions
Acupuncture Board Fund	<u>\$19,500</u>	100.0%
Issue Total	<u>\$19,500</u>	
All Non-General Funds Total as a Percentage of Agency Non-GF Reduction Target		100%

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**FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - SUMMARY OF ISSUES
ACUPUNCTURE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

ACUPUNCTURE BOARD FUND

FY 2010 All Non-General Funds Budget (less Federal Funds) 129,700

AGENCY REDUCTION TARGET - ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS (w/o Federal Funds) \$19,500

Priority	Issue Title¹	Reductions Amount
1	Elimination of FAOMRA Membership	\$2,000
2	Board Rule Writer Services	\$2,000
3	Travel and Board Member Compensation	\$2,500
4	Board Office Rent	\$2,000
5	Board Information Technology	\$2,000
6	Reduction from Acupuncture Board of Examiners Fund	\$9,000
	Issue Total	<u>\$19,500</u>
	Fund Total as a Percentage of Non-General Fund Reduction Target	100%

¹ Please complete the attached Description and Impact Statement for each issue.

**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Issue Title: Elimination of FAOMRA Membership

Issue Priority: 1

Reduction Amounts:

Acupuncture Board Fund: \$2,000

Total: \$2,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

The Federation of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Regulatory Agencies (FAOMRA) was formed in 1997 to fill a void at the national level for representation of state regulatory issues by boards and agencies regulating the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine profession. The Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners has been a member of FAOMRA for several years.

The mission of FAOMRA is the following:

“To provide an organization through which member agencies may work together to better assure the protection of the public through good communication about licensure, practice, regulatory activity and professional disciplinary action and to promote the delivery of quality healthcare to the public.”

A total of 873 individuals have been issued a license to practice acupuncture in Arizona since the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners was established in 1998. As the number of acupuncturists has increased dramatically, so has the need to participate in national discussions that impact the profession.

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §32-3903, the Board has the statutory responsibility to evaluate the qualifications of applicants and issue licenses to qualified applicants. In addition, the Board is required to initiate investigations and issue disciplinary action when licensee violations are identified. The Board is better positioned to meet its statutory requirements by maintaining its active role in the FAOMRA.

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At present, the Executive Director of the Board serves as the President of the FAOMRA. The State of Arizona also has national leaders in the following organizations: the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine--ACAOM, Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine – CCAOM, National Certification Commission For Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine – NCCAOM, and the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine – AAAOM.

The Board and the State of Arizona would be at a great disadvantage if the Board is not able to continue its membership with the FAOMRA. As the national debate on healthcare continues, there will be a distinctive need to participate in discussions regarding the regulation of health care professionals such as acupuncturists.

Additionally, the safety and welfare of Arizona citizens may be endangered if the Board is not able to actively participate in acupuncture issues and concerns as monitored by the national Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine organizations.

**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Issue Title: Board Rule Writer Services

Issue Priority: 2

Reduction Amounts:

Acupuncture Board Fund: \$2,000

Total: \$2,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

The Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners has the statutory obligation, as outlined in Arizona Revised Statutes §32-3903, to promulgate rules to enforce the laws governing the practice of acupuncture.

A.R.S. §41-1056 requires an agency to review its rules every five years to determine whether the rules need to be amended or repealed. After conducting this review, the agency is required to submit a report of its findings to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, which will approve the report or return it to the agency for additional work.

The Board's Five Year Review Plan is intended to be completed by June 2010. The Board will not be in compliance with A.R.S. §41-1056 if this funding is not available.

**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Issue Title: Travel and Board Member Compensation

Issue Priority: 3

Reduction Amounts:

Acupuncture Board Fund: \$2,500

Total: \$2,500

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

The Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners has the statutory obligation, as outlined in Arizona Revised Statutes §32-3902(E), to meet in order to carry out its powers and duties.

In addition, A.R.S. §32-3902(F), authorizes the compensation of board members for each day of actual service in the business of the board. Board members are eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred while carrying out official board duties.

As licensed acupuncturists are found throughout the state, with 140 in Tucson alone, the Board attempts to conduct its meetings outside of the Phoenix metropolitan area. These meetings provide the opportunity for members of the general public to attend board meetings and share any concerns regarding the practice of acupuncture.

Some funds are utilized for mileage/travel reimbursement when an investigation is undertaken by the Board. Board members and Executive Director are required to examine complaints that are recorded from all parts of the state and travel is necessary, in some instances, to conduct the investigation.

The health and protection of the public would be compromised if funding for this activity were to be discontinued.

**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Issue Title: Board Office Rent

Issue Priority: 4

Reduction Amounts:

Acupuncture Board Fund: \$2,000

Total: \$2,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

At this time, the Board is paying \$5,500 for rent of an office located at 1400 W. Washington, Suite 230. The rent amount is calculated at a \$21.02 per square foot rate by the Arizona Department of Administration.

The conditions at the present location are deplorable due to inadequate cleaning services and maintenance. Areas used by the public, such as meeting rooms and restrooms, are in dire need of maintenance and repair.

Numerous privately- owned office buildings located near the capitol complex are available for rent at \$15 to \$18 per square foot. These buildings are well maintained and present a more suitable environment than the present location.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-3903 (B)(2), the Board may purchase, lease, rent, sell or otherwise dispose of personal and real property for the operation of the board.

The Board would realize a savings of \$2,000 if the office was relocated to a more affordable site and could better serve the citizens of Arizona.

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**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Issue Title: Board Information Technology

Issue Priority: 5

Reduction Amounts:

Acupuncture Board Fund: \$2,000

Total: \$2,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

Along with the powers and duties of the Board found in A.R.S. §32-3903, the Board provides timely and accurate information for consumers interested in receiving treatments from a licensed acupuncturist. The Board's web site includes information on licensed acupuncturists, disciplinary actions issued by the Board, consumer information, statutory and rule references and board meeting information.

To best serve all interested parties in regards to the practice of acupuncture, the Board plans for the annual and continuous improvement of information. This may include acquiring new software and hardware, teleconference opportunities, and the upgrade of the Board's web site as required by the Government Information Technology Agency (GITA).

A number of open meeting and public information state laws require the Board to provide the public with information on the business of the Board. The provision of this information is best delivered by maximizing the Board's utilization of current technology.

Furthermore, the Board office receives numerous inquiries from throughout the country via phone and email about acupuncture laws in Arizona. The ability to respond is facilitated by the Board's attention in maintaining efficient means of communication with the use of appropriate technology tools.

If the budget is reduced in this area, the Board may be unable to meet certain statutory requirements that provide customer service and protection to the public.

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**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Issue Title: Reduction from Acupuncture Board of Examiners Fund (2412)

Issue Priority: 6

Reduction Amounts:

Acupuncture Board Fund: \$9,000

Total: \$9,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

The Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners is a self-supporting regulatory agency that operates on the fees collected from licensed acupuncturists as authorized by A.R.S. §32-3927. The Board is responsible for administering the fund and deposits ten percent of all monies collected in the state general fund and deposits the remaining ninety percent in the Acupuncture Board of Examiners Fund as found in A.R.S. §32-3905.

In the last two fiscal years, a total of \$188,400 was transferred from the Acupuncture Board of Examiners Fund to the state general fund due to the budget crisis. These transfers have severely hampered the financial condition of the Board. A number of actions have taken place to offset and adjust to these budget sweeps, but the Board is not in a position to absorb any additional cuts without endangering the statutory duties of the Board – mainly protecting the health and safety of Arizona’s citizens.

The Board operates efficiently and holds a high customer satisfaction rating (7.6 out of 8 in FY 2009) from the individuals served by the Board. As the number of licensed acupuncturists continues to increase, the State of Arizona’s general fund will see increases in the monies deposited by the Board.

To meet the requested 15% budget reduction amount of \$19,500, the Board will reluctantly offer to have \$9,000 reduced from the cash balance of the Acupuncture Board of Examiners Fund.