

NASBLA Policy and Procedures

Public Policies of the Association and Interim Board Public Policy Positions

Approved September 28, 2020

Purpose

This policy and its associated procedures are intended to guide the development, adoption, and representation of public policies of the Association and interim positions of the NASBLA Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the “board”). For the purposes of this policy, “public policy” means a resolution, model act, or policy position statement that is adopted by a vote of the NASBLA membership in accordance with NASBLA Bylaw III, Section 2. It does NOT include policies that are adopted by the board for the purpose of governing the association (per Bylaw IV Section 1 (A)), or interim board positions as described herein.

In the event of a conflict between this policy and the Bylaws, the Bylaws prevail.

Public Policy

Public policies of the association may be proposed by committees of the association (defined in Bylaw IV, Section 3), Board member(s) or individual state members (defined in Bylaw II, Section 1).

The procedures for policy proposals resulting from work products submitted by committees of the association to the board are described in the “NASBLA Policy on Committees.”

Proposals developed by board members or individual NASBLA members should be submitted to the board at least 45 days prior to a NASBLA meeting at which the official business of the association will be conducted (per Bylaw III, Section 2). Proposals may be transmitted by postal mail, or email, and should be directed to the NASBLA Chair with copy to the NASBLA Chief Executive Officer. The chair will direct all submissions to the executive board, which will evaluate each proposal’s alignment with NASBLA’s mission, strategic plan, and interests, and review each proposal for errors, omissions, and inconsistency or conflict with other existing NASBLA policies. On each proposal, the board will make one of the following recommendations: 1) approve for submission to the NASBLA membership for a vote; 2) request further review of the issue by a committee of the association, task force, or NASBLA staff; or 3) reject. Should the board approve a proposal, it will direct NASBLA staff to disseminate the draft document to the NASBLA membership through communication methods accessible to members; request members’ comment on the proposal; and place the item on the agenda of the business meeting for a vote.

The disposition of each policy proposal referred to the board will be reported to the original submitter, and in the case of proposals subjected to a vote, will be recorded in the minutes of the business meeting.

Interim Board Public Policy Positions Through formal resolution, the Board may grant the officers of the association additional authorities not otherwise detailed in the Bylaws (per Bylaw IV Section 2 (C)). In order to provide a timely and expedient response to a request for an official Association public policy or to a question about an ambiguity in policy, the Board may resolve to grant the officers, on a case-by-case basis, the authority to respond to such inquiries or to comment on pending federal decisions or actions that may directly affect governance of the Association, provided these actions are not inconsistent with existing official Association public policy. A board resolution so authorizing the officers must be clearly identified as an interim board position on public policy, and include the interim Board position statement and, if applicable, instructions to the officers. Upon adoption by the board, resolutions containing interim board positions must be announced and made available to NASBLA membership through communication methods accessible to them.

To be considered and voted upon by the NASBLA membership as an official association public policy, the interim board position statement must be placed on the agenda of the next meeting at which the official business of the association will be conducted, or if a formal meeting is not scheduled, must be presented and the vote conducted according to provisions in Bylaw III Sections 3 and 8.

Interim board positions remain in effect only until they are repealed or amended by the board or until such time as the interim board position is either adopted or rejected as official association public policy by a vote of the NASBLA membership.

Representation of Association Public Policy

Only official association public policies and interim board public policy positions may be represented as positions of the association.

Association responses to formal written requests for official association public policy or an interim board public policy position must be on association letterhead and signed by the NASBLA Chair, and with the applicable documents enclosed, except that a response to an email request shall include such documents as attachments. Each response must clearly state whether it is an official association public policy or an interim board public policy position.

The officers of the association, through the association's Chief Executive Officer, may authorize employees of the association to represent official association public policies and interim board policy positions to other parties.