Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Delegates:

Reference Committee S gave careful consideration to several items referred to it and submits the following report:

1) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG supports the current requirement that APRNs work under “supervision” versus a “collaboration and consultation” agreement with physicians.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 1 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

2) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes increasing an APRN’s prescriptive authority to order Schedule II narcotics.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 2 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

3) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes increasing the number of APRNs supervised by a physician greater than current law, which is four, pursuant to a protocol agreement.”
Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 3 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

4) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes legislation that would allow an APRN to order radiographic imaging pursuant to a physician protocol.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 4 from the Office of the President be adopted as amended:

MAG opposes current legislation that would allow an APRN to order radiographic imaging pursuant to a physician protocol.

Rationale:

During the committee deliberations members of the Georgia Radiology Society (GRS) expressed its concern with the language currently debated in the General Assembly. GRS opposed the bill on the grounds of safety and the inappropriate ordering of tests (e.g. ordering with contrast when it was not necessary). Members of your Committee provided anecdotal evidence of instances when APRNs were unable to demonstrate the appropriate level of knowledge or training to order advanced image studies. Your Committee also expressed concerned about establishing precedent to grant additional authority to APRNs. However, your Committee wished to allow flexibility regarding future legislation that may be acceptable to both MAG and GRS.

5) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG supports the current law that allows a pharmacist to administer an adult vaccine with a patient-specific prescription and does not support pharmacists administering all adult vaccines under a blanket protocol agreement with a physician.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 5 from the Office of the President be adopted as amended:

“MAG supports the current law that allows a pharmacist to administer an adult vaccine with a patient-specific prescription and does not support pharmacists administering all adult vaccines under a blanket protocol agreement with a physician.”
vaccines under a blanket protocol agreement with a physician. Additionally, MAG urges the
 equitable distribution of vaccines among physicians, hospitals, and county health
departments.”

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its
recommendation on the above subject matter. As a matter of public health, members of the
committee also expressed their concern about low vaccination rates among adults and the
challenges that medical professionals often encounter in securing vaccines for their offices. In
response to this need, your Committee urges that there be equitable distribution of vaccines
among physicians, hospitals, and county health departments. Equitable distribution was discussed
as a means to prevent large retail chains from purchasing large quantities of vaccine thus
preventing smaller practices and county health departments from being unable to obtain vaccine.

6) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes proposals that would allow a pharmacist the ability to substitute therapeutic
drugs.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 6 from the Office of the
President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its
recommendation on the above subject matter.

7) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG supports pharmacists obtaining a physician’s “consent” prior to substituting a
biosimilar for a biologic.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 7 from the Office of the
President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its
recommendation on the above subject matter.
8) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes allowing chiropractors to diagnose patients.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 8 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

9) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes allowing chiropractors to perform school physicals.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 9 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

10) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes allowing physical therapists direct access to patients.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 10 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.
11) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes allowing marriage and family therapists to diagnose patients.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 11 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

12) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG opposes any optometric scope of practice expansion.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 12 from the Office of the President be adopted.

Rationale:

Your Reference Committee S reviewed the President’s report and agreed with its recommendation on the above subject matter.

13) Office of the President (Officer: 01.13)

Original Recommendation(s):

“MAG suggests developing a definition of surgery for Georgia.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Recommendation 13 from the Office of the President be referred to the Board of Directors for decision.

Rationale:

Your Committee discussed the need for a definition for surgery. Members cautioned the importance of being careful and deliberate so as not to create unintended consequences for a definition that is not as comprehensive as necessary in order to be effective. In its wisdom, your Committee has referred this item to the MAG Board of Directors for consideration at its January 2014 Board meeting.
14) Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice (Resolution: 701S.13)

Original Resolve(s):

“That advanced nurse practitioners should continue their collaborative agreements with physicians and not be granted full license authority for the reasons given above”

“That in the interest to maintain the highest quality of care and to maintain the highest quality of medical standards to Georgia patients and to ensure the proper and timely discipline of all physician extenders who take care of patients, the Medical Association of Georgia makes it a legislative priority to transfer the last group of physician extenders who are not regulated under the medical board – advanced nurse practitioners – to the Georgia Composite Medical Board.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Resolves 1 be not adopted and 2 be adopted as amended:

That in the interest to maintain the highest quality of care and to maintain the highest quality of medical standards to Georgia patients and to ensure the proper and timely discipline of all physician extenders who take care of patients, the Medical Association of Georgia makes it a legislative priority to transfer Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (including Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), and Nurse Practitioners (NP) under the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) with an ex-officio member of the Board.

Rationale:

Your Committee reviewed this resolution and made recommendations to transfer Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (including Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), and Nurse Practitioners (NP) under the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) with an ex-officio member of the Board. Transferring these extenders under the GCMB will ensure the proper protocol development of delegated acts and consistent disciplinary activity of persons providing delegated medical care in the state of Georgia. Inviting these extenders to serve as ex-officio members of the GCMB will encourage open communication between medical doctors and nurses.

15) Proper Identification of Mid-Level Providers and Physicians (Resolution: 702S.13)

Original Resolve(s):

“That the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) supports that all mid-level providers and health care extenders introduce themselves accurately and give their correct titles when delivering care and to accurately identify the supervising physician, including providing contact information and that such health care extenders and the supervising physician wear an identification badge that clearly and accurately states their correct titles and degrees.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Resolution 702S.13 be adopted.
Reference Committee S

Rationale:

The importance of “credential” transparency was adopted as a legislative priority by the Medical Association of Georgia’s Board of Directors. Your Committee supports this endeavor.

16) Improving the House of Medicine’s Advocacy in Georgia (Resolution: 703S.13)

Original Resolve(s):

“That the House of Delegates (HOD) asks Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) staff to investigate successful models of how the state medical society and state specialty societies can work together in a more collaborative and timely fashion on legislative issues”

“That MAG staff bring back a proposal to the Board of Directors no later than the summer of 2014 with suggested improvements to implement a more effective process no later than December 2014.”

Recommendation:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee recommends that Resolves 1 and 2 be adopted.

Rationale:

Resolution 703S.13 was considered in reference committee testimony and discussion. Staff will communicate with other organizations and report to the MAG Board of Directors no later than the summer of 2014 with any suggested improvements or opportunities for further collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the report of Reference Committee S. I wish to thank the Members of the Committee, who are:

Stephen Jarrard, M.D., Vice Chairman, Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons
Michael F. Doherty, M.D., Medical Association of Atlanta
J. Mitch Cook, D.O., Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
Sid Moore Jr., M.D., Bibb County Medical Society
Thomas E. Shook, M.D., Georgia Medical Society

Mr. Speaker, the Committee wishes to also thank Marcus Downs and Ryan Larosa for their very capable assistance to the Committee.

Quentin R. Pirkle Jr., M.D., Chairman
Medical Association of Atlanta