

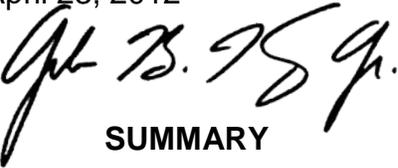


**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech  


**SUBJECT:** Appointment to the Position of Executive Secretary, State Boards for Acupuncture, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**DATE:** April 23, 2012

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**   
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision**

Should the Regents approve the appointment of James R. Hinds as Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Acupuncture, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

**Proposed Handling**

This recommendation will come before the full Board of Regents at its executive session for discussion during the April Regents meeting. If approved in executive session, it will then come before the full Board for final action at the Board's public session in April 2012.

**Procedural History**

Sections 8213(2), 7903, and 8205 of the Education Law requires the Board of Regents to appoint the Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Acupuncture, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The State professional boards advise and assist the Regents and the Department on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct.

## **Background Information**

The New York State Education Department oversees the licensing and registration of over 3,500 acupuncturists, 10,000 occupational therapists, and 16,000 speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The primary oversight of that function falls under the direction of the Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Acupuncture, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Accordingly, upon the retirement of the past Executive Secretary, it became a priority to seek a strongly qualified candidate. After an extensive search, we are pleased to present James R. Hinds for your consideration for the following reasons.

In addition to serving as the interim Executive Secretary for Occupational Therapy since September 2011, Jim has served as the personnel and fiscal liaison for the Office of the Professions beginning in September 2010. He is also the Deputy Director of the Office of Legal Services in the upstate region and brings with him over 15 years of experience in health law. Jim is keenly aware of the issues facing the practice of these professions in particular, as well as those facing the health professions in general.

As one of the selected participants in the Department's Leadership Academy, Jim brings a unique blend of knowledge and background together with the managerial and legal skills necessary to assume the responsibilities necessary as the Executive Secretary to the New York State Boards for Acupuncture, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Regents approve the appointment of James R. Hinds as Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Acupuncture, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Regents approve the recommendation, the appointment will be effective April 26, 2012.