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3 **Title: Change "Life" Membership Qualifications**

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5 **Introduced by: Joseph M. Price, MD, Sanilac County**

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7 **Original Author: Joseph M. Price, MD**

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9 **Referred to: Reference Committee C**

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11 **House Action: Disapproved**

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13 **Whereas, the existing bylaws of the Michigan State Medical Society**
14 **allow a physician otherwise qualified to be moved to "Life" membership status**
15 **upon attaining the age of 70, and**

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17 **Whereas, alternatively, the existing bylaws of the Michigan State**
18 **Medical Society allow a physician otherwise qualified to be moved to "Life"**
19 **membership status after 50 years of medical practice, and**

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21 **Whereas, the above requirements are inherently incompatible by reason**
22 **of the fact that every otherwise qualified physician member will reach the age**
23 **of 70 many years before having been in practice for 50 years, and**

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25 **Whereas, as an example, the author of this resolution graduated from**
26 **medical school at age 25, completed a one year then-standard rotating**
27 **internship at age 26, fulfilled a conscripted two-year duration U.S. Army**
28 **Medical Corps obligation (including infantry combat service in Vietnam) at age**
29 **28 and became a member of the Michigan State Medical Society (and**
30 **component county society) while still 28 years old when starting his medical**
31 **practice in this state, he will qualify for the 70 years old "life" membership**
32 **status for the 2011 year (having already paid dues for 2010) having reached**
33 **"only" 41 years of practice, and**

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35 **Whereas, as a continuing example, in the case of the most favorable**
36 **situation of about the youngest anticipatable American medical school**
37 **graduate situation, the author will qualify for "Life" membership status a full**
38 **nine years before the 50 years of medical practice rule could apply, and**

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40 **Whereas, as the most extreme example imaginable (and highly unlikely,**
41 **in terms of anyone completing a modern multi-year residency before starting**
42 **practice and society membership), a medical doctor cannot by law be licensed**
43 **in the state of Michigan before attaining the age of 21 and therefore could not**
44 **become a Michigan State Medical Society member before that age, by the time**
45 **that physician would qualify for the 50 years of medical practice rule to be**
46 **moved to "Life" membership he/she would be (21 + 50 =) 71 years old and,**
47 **again, qualified at least a year *before* on the basis of the 70 years old age**
48 **provision, and**

49 Whereas, the provision allowing for a physician’s move to “Life”
50 membership upon attaining the requirement for 50 years of medical practice
51 (which, as suggested by the examples above, is actually impossible for
52 anyone) is patently inappropriate, pointless, if not actually preposterous; and
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54 Whereas, most physicians and other professionals retire from full-time
55 practice literally years before having attained the age of 70 years old, and
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57 Whereas, most Americans – including presumably all physicians,
58 including all members of the Michigan State Medical Society – become eligible
59 for Medicare at age 65, and
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61 Whereas, most Americans are considered “senior citizens” and are
62 offered discounts and other benefits at age 65 at the latest; therefore be it
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64 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS, in the interest of fairness as well as
65 reasonableness of requirements, change its bylaws to provide for allowing the
66 change to “Life” membership status after 30 years of medical practice or
67 having attained the age of 65 years, whichever occurs first.
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70 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**