



Board of Behavioral Sciences

Memo

1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-200
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 574-7830, (916) 574-8625 Fax
www.bbs.ca.gov

To: Board Members

Date: October 16, 2025

From: Rosanne Helms
Legislative Manager

Subject: Legislative Update

BOARD-SPONSORED AND SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

1. **SB 775 (Ashby) Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences**

The Board is supporting and also sponsoring several provisions of SB 775 that provide amendments to the Board's marriage and family therapy, licensed educational psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, and licensed professional clinical counselor statute, and that extend the Board's sunset date, as follows:

Board-Supported Provisions

The Board is supporting amendments to extend the Board's sunset date to January 1, 2030.

Board-Sponsored Provisions

The Board is also serving as a sponsor of several amendments to the Board's practice acts, which include the following:

- Technical and/or nonsubstantive amendments.
- Amendments to potentially allow the Board to adopt the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards' (AMFTRB) Marital and Family Therapy National Examination as its clinical examination via regulations.
- Deleting the sunset date to allow supervision via videoconferencing in all settings indefinitely and extending the sunset date for the Board's temporary practice allowance.

- Amending the licensing requirements for Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs).
- Amending the retired license statute.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 787, Statutes of 2025).

BOARD-SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

1. **[AB 489 \(Bonta\) Health Care Professions: Deceptive Terms or Letters: Artificial Intelligence](#)**

This bill would prohibit a person or entity who develops or deploys an artificial intelligence or generative artificial intelligence system from having that system represent or imply that it is a licensed health care provider by using prohibited terms, letters, or phrases. It makes violations subject to the jurisdiction of the applicable licensing board.

At its May 9, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on the bill.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 615, Statutes of 2025).

2. **[AB 742 \(Elhawary\) Department of Consumer Affairs: Licensing: Applicants who are Descendants of Slaves](#)**

This bill would require boards within DCA to prioritize applicants seeking licensure if they are certified by the State Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery as a descendant of American slaves.

At its August 22, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: The Governor vetoed this bill. His veto message can be found [here](#).

3. **[SB 470 \(Laird\) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing](#)**

In 2023, SB 544 (Laird, Chapter 216, Statutes of 2023) was signed into law, modernizing the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to provide two new teleconference meeting options for state bodies to hold public meetings. Those two options are set to sunset on January 1, 2026. This bill would extend sunset date for the two options until January 1, 2030.

At its May 9, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 222, Statutes of 2025).

4. **[SB 497 \(Wiener\) Legally Protected Health Care Activity](#)**

This bill seeks to protect the privacy and safety of individuals seeking gender affirming health care and mental health care in California, as well as the health care providers delivering these services, by strengthening protections in law related to the sharing of their health care information.

At its May 9, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on the bill. Since that time, minor technical amendments have been made.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 764, Statutes of 2025).

5. **[SB 579 \(Padilla\) Mental Health and Artificial Intelligence Working Group](#)**

This bill would require the State Government Operations Agency to appoint a mental health and artificial intelligence working group by July 1, 2026, to examine the role of artificial intelligence in mental health treatment.

At its May 9, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This is a 2-year bill.

6. **[SB 744 \(Cabaldon\) Accrediting Agencies](#)**

This bill safeguards California’s higher education institutions, financial aid eligibility, and licensure pathways from potential federal disruptions by providing that any national or regional accrediting agency that was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as of January 1, 2025 will retain recognition under California law until 2029, provided it continues to operate in substantially the same manner.

At its August meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2025).

BOARD-OPPOSED LEGISLATION

1. **[AB 427 \(Jackson\) Social Workers: Interstate Compact](#)**

This bill would establish California as a member state in the Social Work Licensure Compact, which permits a licensed clinical social worker in a member state to practice in other member states. The Compact would only become operative in California if a majority of the Board of Behavioral Sciences votes in favor of joining the Compact, and the vote is certified by the Director of Consumer Affairs.

At its May 9, 2025 meeting, the Board took an “oppose” position on the bill.

Status: This is a 2-year bill.

BOARD-MONITORED LEGISLATION

1. **[SB 641](#) (Ashby) Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: States of Emergency: Waivers and Exemptions**

This bill would permit boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the Department of Real Estate to waive certain specified provisions of their licensing laws for licensees and applicants who are affected by a declared state or national emergency

At its May 9, 2025 meeting, the Board opted not to take a position on this bill.

Status: The Governor vetoed this bill. His veto message can be found [here](#).

2. **[SB 160](#) (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Background Checks**

This bill modernizes the statutes authorizing the submission of fingerprints and the receipt of criminal history information used in background checks for several DCA boards, including this Board, per the recommendation of the Department of Justice in order to align with Public Law 92-544.

The board did not take a position on this bill, as it was amended into an existing bill at the end of the legislative session.

Status: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 113, Statutes of 2025).

Updated: October 14, 2025