

# MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	November 8, 2024
<b>TO</b>	Physician Assistant Board (Board)
<b>FROM</b>	Jasmine Dhillon, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 20. Legislative Update</b>

A. **AB 2270 (Maienschein) Healing arts: continuing education: menopausal mental or physical health.**

**Status:** Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by the Secretary of State - Chapter 636, Statutes of 2024.

**Summary:** The Medical Practice Act establishes the Medical Board of California and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of physicians and surgeons, including osteopathic physicians and surgeons. The Nursing Practice Act establishes the Board of Registered Nursing and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of the practice of nursing. The Psychology Licensing Law establishes the Board of Psychology and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of psychologists. The Physician Assistant Practice Act establishes the Physician Assistant Board and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of physician assistants. The Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act, the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act, and the Educational Psychologist Practice Act provides for the licensure and regulation of the practices of marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, professional clinical counseling, and education psychology, respectively, by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Current law establishes continuing education requirements for all of these various healing arts practitioners. This bill would require the above-specified boards, in determining their continuing education requirements, to consider including a course in menopausal mental or physical health.

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff does not anticipate any fiscal impact.

**Board Position:** At its May 20, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

*MISSION: To protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the Physician Assistant laws and regulations.*

B. **[AB 2442 \(Zbur\)](#) Healing arts: expedited licensure process: gender-affirming health care and gender-affirming mental health care.**

**Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

**Summary:** Current law requires the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Physician Assistant Board to expedite the licensure process for an applicant who demonstrates that they intend to provide abortions within the scope of practice of their license and specifies the manner in which the applicant is required to demonstrate their intent. This bill would also require those boards to expedite the licensure process for an applicant who demonstrates that they intend to provide gender-affirming health care and gender-affirming mental health care, as defined, within the scope of practice of their license, and would specify the manner in which the applicant would be required to demonstrate their intent. The bill would repeal its provisions on January 1, 2029.

**Fiscal Impact:** This bill would require staff to update the Board's licensing process to ensure applicants who meet the gender-affirming health care and gender-affirming mental health care criteria can get their license application expedited. This would require the license application form to be updated for applicants to demonstrate their intent. Staff projects there will not be an increase in licensing workload related to the new provisions of this bill.

**Board Position:** At its May 20, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

C. **[AB 2581 \(Maienschein\)](#) Healing arts: continuing education: maternal mental health.**

**Status:** Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by the Secretary of State – Chapter 836, Statutes of 2024.

**Summary:** The Nursing Practice Act establishes the Board of Registered Nursing and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of the practice of nursing. The Psychology Licensing Law establishes the Board of Psychology and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of psychologists. The Physician Assistant Practice Act establishes the Physician Assistant Board and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of physician assistants. The Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act, the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act, and the Educational Psychologist Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practices of marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, professional clinical counseling, and education psychology, respectively, by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. This bill would require the above-specified boards, in determining their continuing education requirements, to consider including a course in maternal mental health.

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff does not anticipate any fiscal impact.

*MISSION: To protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the Physician Assistant laws and regulations.*

**Board Position:** At its May 20, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

D. **[AB-3119](#) (Low) Physicians and surgeons, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants: continuing medical education: infection-associated chronic conditions.**

**Status:** This bill was chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 433, Statutes of 2024.

**Summary:** The Physician Assistant Practice Act establishes the Physician Assistant Board to license and regulate physician assistants and authorizes the Physician Assistant Board to require a licensed physician assistant to complete continuing education as a condition of license renewal. This bill would require the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Physician Assistant Board to consider including in their continuing education requirements for the licensees specified above a course in infection-associated chronic conditions, including long COVID.

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff does not anticipate any fiscal impact.

**Board Position:** At its August 9, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

E. **[AB 3127](#) (McKinnor) Reporting of crimes: mandated reporters.**

**Status:** This bill is considered dead.

**Summary:** This bill would remove the requirement that a health practitioner make a report to law enforcement when they suspect a patient has suffered physical injury caused by assaultive or abusive conduct. The bill would instead require that a health practitioner make a report when the injury is life threatening or results in death, as specified, or is the result of child abuse or elder or dependent adult abuse. The bill would require the health practitioner to additionally make a report when a person is seeking care for injuries related to domestic, sexual, or any nonaccidental violent injury if the patient requests a report be sent, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Board would need to provide an update of mandated reporting information included on the Board's website for licensees. This is something that can be done by staff and is supported by the Board's current pro rata costs to DCA.

**Board Position:** At its May 20, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

F. **[SB-639](#) (Limón) Medical professionals: course requirements.**

**Status:** Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 336, Statutes of 2024.

**Summary:** Existing law, the Physician Assistant Practice Act, establishes the Physician Assistant Board for the licensure and regulation of physician assistants. Existing law

*MISSION: To protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the Physician Assistant laws and regulations.*

authorizes the board to require a licensee to complete specified continuing education coursework as a condition of license renewal.

This bill would require a physician assistant who provides primary care to a patient population of which over 25% are 65 years of age or older to complete at least 20% of all mandatory continuing education hours in a course in the field of geriatric medicine, the special care needs of patients with dementia, or the care of older patients.

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff does not anticipate any fiscal impact.

**Board Position:** At its August 9, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

G. **[SB 1067 \(Smallwood-Cuevas\) Healing arts: expedited licensure process: medically underserved area or population.](#)**

**Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

**Summary:** Current law establishes various boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate various health professionals. Current law requires specified boards to expedite the licensure process of an applicant who can demonstrate that they intend to provide abortions within their scope of practice and specifies the documentation an applicant is required to provide to demonstrate their intent. This bill would require each healing arts board, as defined, to develop a process to expedite the licensure process by giving priority review status to the application of an applicant for a license who demonstrates that they intend to practice in a medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved population, as defined.

**Fiscal Impact:** This bill would require staff to update the Board's licensing process to ensure applicants who meet the medically underserved area or serving a medically underserved population criteria can get their license application expedited. This would require the license application form to be updated for applicants to demonstrate their intent. Staff projects there will not be an increase in licensing workload related to the new provisions of this bill.

**Board Position:** At its May 20, 2024 meeting, the Board took an oppose position.

*MISSION: To protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the Physician Assistant laws and regulations.*