

MEMORANDUM

DATE	November 17, 2025
TO	Physician Assistant Board (Board)
FROM	Kristy Schieldge, Regulations Counsel, Attorney IV Jasmine Dhillon, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
SUBJECT	14. Discussion and Possible Action to Reconsider Previously Approved Text, and to Consider the Initiation of a Rulemaking to Amend Title 16, California Code of Regulations Sections 1399.507 and 1399.515 Regarding Retired Status Updates and Returned Fingerprint Requirement

Background

At its August 9, 2021 meeting, the Board discussed the risks of the Board reactivating the license of a retired physician assistant who has gotten a state or federal arrest or disposition since retiring their license, making amendments to 16 CCR section 1399.515 to require retired status licensees who seek to re-activate their license to provide fingerprints to the DOJ so the Board may conduct criminal history background checks and other non-substantive changes.

At its April 21, 2025 meeting, the Board discussed the limitations on return to practice for those individuals who have been in a retired status for at least five years, making amendments to include a limitation as to time when an individual can restore their license from retired status to active status, which is within five years of being issued a retired license. This time frame is consistent with the five-year cancellation provision in Business and Professions Code section 3526 for licensees who fail to renew their PA license within five years after their license expires, ensuring currency of knowledge for those who re-enter practice after being retired for years. The amendments approved also included those specifying that if a licensee who has been in retired status for more than five years seeks an active license, the individual may apply for a new license pursuant to CCR section 1399.506 (filing of applications for new license requirements). As part of that application process, applicants are required to show proof of successful completion of the written examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (“aka” as the “Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination” (PANCE)). The Board also discussed and approved the revision of the Application for Retired Status for uniformity and accuracy.

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Since that time, it was discovered that retired status applicants are not eligible to re-take the PANCE and instead may take a recertifying examination entitled Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) and that the results are considered valid for at least ten years.

Summary of Changes

The proposed changes to the language in the Retired Status Updates and Returned Fingerprint Requirement rulemaking text at 16 CCR sections 1399.507 and 1399.515 are shown in Attachment 1. Changes made to the proposed language since the April 21, 2025 Board meeting are shown in underline, strikeout, and highlighted in yellow in **Attachment 1**, and those changes include:

- Updating 16 CCR 1399.507 to clarify the initial licensure examination required is the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).
- Amending 16 CCR 1399.507 to remove gendered language as Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 260 of 2018 (ACR 260) urges state agencies to use gender neutral pronouns and avoid the use of gendered pronouns in drafting regulations.
- Updating 16 CCR 1399.507 to add the exam requirement referenced in 16 CCR 1399.515 for an individual seeking an active status after being in a retired status for more than five years. This amendment helps distinguish between the two types of examinations required by the Board depending on the applicant's status (initial applicant vs. applicant in retired status for more than 5 years and seeking to return to active practice).
- Updating 16 CCR 1399.515(a)(3) to reflect the delinquency fee increase from \$25 to \$75, pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 1501 (Berman, Chapter 194, Statutes of 2025).
- Updating 16 CCR 1399.515(d) to clarify that the passage of the PANCE for initial licensure is not a requirement for an individual seeking an active status after being in retired status for more than five years, but the passage of the Physician Assistant National Recertifying Examination (PANRE) within the past ten (10) years immediately preceding the submission of their application is a requirement to prove competency and knowledge.
- Adding 16 CCR 1399.515(d)(2) to define the type of "proof" a licensee in retired status must provide to the Board to be eligible for active status consistent with the Board's current practice and understanding of how such proof is provided by the NCCPA, and explaining the Board's procedures to verify the licensee's examination results.

Action Requested

Staff recommends the Board review and discuss the provided materials (highlighting shows where language has changed since the last Board vote). The Board may wish to determine whether or not to approve the revised regulatory language and initiate the

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rulemaking process using the revised regulatory language.

Suggested Motion Language

Move to approve the proposed regulatory text for 16 CCR sections 1399.507 and 1399.515 as set forth in **Attachments 1 and 2** and direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review. If the Board does not receive any objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the Board in proposing or adopting this action, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If no objections or adverse recommendations are received during the 45-day comment period and no hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking and adopt the proposed regulations at 16 CCR sections 1399.507 and 1399.515 as noticed.

Attachment: 1. Proposed regulatory text for 16 CCR Sections 1399.507 and 1399.515, Retired Status Updates and Returned Fingerprint Requirement rulemaking.

2. Proposed Revisions to Application for Retired Status, Form PAB-RET 04/1904/25

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Attachment 1

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
TITLE 16. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD

PROPOSED REGULATORY LANGUAGE
Retired Status Updates and Returned Fingerprint Requirement

Legend: Added text is indicated with an <u>underline</u> . Deleted text is indicated by strikeout .
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Amend Sections 1399.507 and 1399.515 of Article 1 of Division 13.8 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 1399.507. Examination Required.

The written examination for initial licensure as a physician assistant is that administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) entitled “Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination” (PANCE). Successful completion requires that the applicant has se achieved the passing score established by the ~~board~~ NCCPA for that examination. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that certification of his or her ~~their~~ examination score is received by the board.

The written examination for a licensee who has been in retired status for more than five years and seeks a new, active license from the Board to practice as a physician assistant is the examination specified in Section 1399.515.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 3510, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 851, 3515, 3509, 3521.3, and 3517, Business and Professions Code.

§ 1399.515. Retired Status.

(a) The board shall issue, upon receipt of a completed Application for Retired Status (Form PAB-RET, 044/1925), which is hereby incorporated by reference, a retired license to a physician assistant who meets all of the following requirements:

(1) The applicant has been licensed by the board and is not actively engaged in practice as a physician assistant or any activity that requires them to be licensed by the board.

(2) The applicant’s physician assistant license is not canceled, suspended, revoked, or otherwise punitively restricted by the board or subject to disciplinary action by the board under the Medical Practice Act (commencing with Section 2000 of the Code), Physician Assistant Practice Act (commencing with Section 3500 of the Code), or regulations adopted pursuant to those practice acts, ~~and by the board~~.

(3) ~~Beginning one (1) year from the effective date of this regulation,~~ The applicant's license is not delinquent. If the license is in a delinquent status, the applicant may satisfy this requirement by submitting payment for all outstanding fees with the retirement status application. For the purposes of this subsection, "outstanding fees" includes all accrued renewal fees, a ~~twenty-five~~seventy-five dollar (\$~~25~~75) delinquency fee, and the mandatory fee for the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) as set forth in Section 208 of the Code.

(b) The holder of a retired license:

(1) Shall be exempt from the renewal requirements described in Section 3524.5 of the Code.

(2) May restore ~~his or her~~ their license to active status within five years of being issued a retired license by:

(A) complying with the renewal requirements set forth in Section 1399.514,

(B) submitting proof of completion of continuing medical education (CME) as set forth in Section 1399.615 or proof of certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants,

(C) submitting the license renewal fee as set forth in Section 1399.550, ~~and~~

(D) submitting the mandatory fee for the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) as set forth in Section 208 of the Code, and,

(E) on written request of the Board, furnishing to the Department of Justice a full set of fingerprints for the purposes of conducting criminal history record checks pursuant to Section 144 of the Code. Submission of fingerprints shall only be requested by the Board if an electronic record of the submission of the individual's fingerprints does not exist in the Department of Justice's criminal offender identification database.

(c) The board may upon its own determination, and shall upon receipt of a complaint from any person, investigate the actions of any licensee who may be in violation of this section.

(d) (1) If a licensee who has been in retired status for more than five years seeks an active license, the individual may apply for a new license by meeting the requirements of Section 1399.506, with the exception of the requirement to show passage of the PANCE written examination for applicants for initial licensure specified in Section 1399.507. In lieu of the passage of the PANCE, a licensee in retired status shall provide satisfactory proof of passage of the National Commission on Certification of Physician

Assistants' (NCCPA) Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) within the past ten (10) years immediately preceding the submission of their application in compliance with this subsection and meet the other application requirements specified by Section 1399.506 to eligible for a new active license.

(2) For the purposes of this subsection, "proof" shall mean passage of the PANRE as determined by the NCCPA according to the requirements of this paragraph. To submit proof of passage to the Board as part of their application, the retired status licensee shall access online the NCCPA's website at www.nccpa.net, and follow all instructions required by the NCCPA to authorize the electronic release of their PANRE score directly to the Board to show passage of the PANRE. The Board shall access the applicant's PANRE score and verify compliance with this paragraph through the NCCPA's portal as part of its review of the application submitted per Section 1399.506.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2018, 3510, and 3521.3, Business and Professions Code. Reference cited: Sections 144, 208, 464, 3521.1, and 3521.3, Business and Professions Code.

Attachment 2

Note: Strike Old Logo and State Seal and Add New Logo and Letterhead here as follows:



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS • PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250, Sacramento, CA 95815

P (916) 561-8780 | F (916) 263-2671 | paboard@dca.ca.gov | www.pab.ca.gov



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~~DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS • PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD~~



APPLICATION FOR RETIRED STATUS

- ~~Prior to April 1, 2020, an individual's license may be delinquent when applying for retired status and no fees are required.~~ On and after April 1, 2020, in order to be eligible for a retired license, an individual's license must be in a current-active or current-inactive status. The license cannot be canceled, suspended, revoked or otherwise punitively restricted by the Physician Assistant Board or subject to disciplinary action by the Board under the Medical Practice Act (commencing with Section 200 of the Code), Physician Assistant Practice Act (commencing with Section 3500 of the Code), or regulations adopted pursuant to those practice acts, and by the board for you to be eligible for this license status.
- ~~On or after April 1, 2020, if the physician assistant license is delinquent, a payment of all outstanding fees as required by California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1399.515(a)(3) must be submitted with the Application for Retired Status.~~
- You must mail the application and any required fees to the Physician Assistant Board, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250, Sacramento, CA 95815-3893. **Faxes are not acceptable. Failure to provide any requested information or fees may prevent, or significantly delay the processing of your request.**
- Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1399.515 provides an exemption from payment of the renewal fee if the licensee has been granted a retired status.

PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTION NOTICE: The information provided in this form will be used by the Physician Assistant Board ("PA Board") to process your request to change your license status to retired. Section 3521.3 of the Business and Professions Code and Section 1399.515 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations authorizes the collection of this information. Failure to provide any of the required information (except the email address) is grounds for rejection of the form as being incomplete. Information provided may be transferred to the Department of Justice, a District Attorney, a City Attorney, or to another government agency as may be necessary to permit the PA Board, or the transferee agency, to perform its statutory or constitutional duties or otherwise transferred or disclosed as provided in Civil Code Section 1798.24. Each individual has the right to review his or her file, except as otherwise provided by the Information Practices Act. The Executive Officer of the PA Board is responsible for maintaining the information in this form, and may be contacted at 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250, Sacramento, CA 95815-3893, telephone number (916) 561-8780 regarding questions about this notice or access to records.

NO PRACTICE IS PERMITTED

Please print or type. An illegible application will be returned.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: (first, middle, last)

Address of record: (Current public/mailling address. If using a PO Box, you must also provide a confidential street address.) This address is displayed on the Physician Assistant Board's website.

Change of Address: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Confidential street address:

License Number:

Expiration Date:

Last 4 digits of SSN:

Date of Birth:

Telephone Number:

Email:
(optional)

RETIREMENT INFORMATION

Are you actively engaged in practice as a physician assistant or in any activity that requires you to be licensed by the Physician Assistant Board?

☐ Yes ☐ No

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that I have read and personally completed this form. By signing below, I am requesting Retired License Status.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For PAB use only:

Entered in system: _____ Renewal Application Canceled: _____ Date: _____

PAB-RET ~~01/1904/25~~

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite ~~1100~~2250, Sacramento, CA 95815-3893 • (916) 561-8780 • Fax: (916) 263-2671 • www.paeb.ca.gov