

the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee's annual omnibus bill. These amendments were approved by the Board at its November 22, 2019 meeting. However, due to COVID-19, the Committee postponed including these items in the omnibus bill this year.

BOARD-SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

1. **AB 613 (Low): Professions and Vocations: Regulatory Fees**

This is a two-year bill that would have allowed the Board to increase any of its authorized fees once every four years by an amount up to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding four years.

At its May 10, 2019 meeting, the Board took a "support" position on the bill.

In June 2020, the bill was gut-and-amended to address an unrelated topic.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee.

2. **AB 769 (Smith): Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics: Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor**

This was a two-year bill that would have allowed Medi-Cal reimbursement for covered mental health services provided by a licensed professional clinical counselor employed by a federally qualified health center or a rural health clinic.

At its May 10, 2019 meeting, the Board took a "support" position on this bill.

This bill was last located in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. It is unknown if it will move.

Status: This is a two-year bill.

3. **AB 1145 (Garcia): Child Abuse: Reportable Conduct**

This is a two-year bill that would specify that voluntary acts of sodomy, oral copulation, and sexual penetration are not considered acts of sexual assault that must be reported by a mandated reporter as child abuse if there are no indicators of abuse, unless it is between a person age 21 or older and a minor under age 16.

At its March 6, 2020 meeting, the Board took a "support" position on this bill.

Status: This bill is currently heading to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

4. AB 2112 (Ramos): Suicide Prevention

This bill authorizes the establishment of the Office of Suicide Prevention within the State Department of Public Health.

At its June 5, 2020 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on a previous version of this bill.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Health Committee.

5. AB 2113 (Low): Refugees, Asylees, and Immigrants: Professional Licensing

This bill would require the Board to expedite the initial licensure process for certain refugee, asylee, and immigrant applicants.

At its June 5, 2020 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee.

6. AB 2253 (Low): Professional Licensure

Various mental health professionals working in certain state settings are allowed a waiver from licensure requirements for a specified period of time if they are working toward gaining “qualifying experience” toward licensure. This bill would clarify the definition of “qualifying experience” toward licensure so that it is consistent across state agencies.

At its June 5, 2020 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Health Committee.

7. SB 660 (Pan): Postsecondary Education: Mental Health Counselors

At the time the Board considered this bill, it proposed requiring California community colleges and schools in the California State University system to hire one full-time equivalent mental health counselor per 1,500 students enrolled at each of their campuses.

At its May 10, 2019 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on a previous version of the bill.

Status: This is a two-year bill, and the author’s office has indicated it will not be moving forward this year.

8. **SB 803 (Beall): Mental Health Services: Peer Support Specialist Certification**

This bill requires the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish a certification body for peer support specialists.

At its June 5, 2020 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on a previous version of the bill. Minor amendments have been made since that time.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Health Committee.

9. **SB 855 (Wiener): Health Coverage: Mental Health or Substance Use Disorders**

This bill expands California’s 1999 Mental Health Parity Act. That act required health plans and insurers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of severe mental illness (for persons of any age), and for serious emotional disturbances of a child under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. Instead, this bill requires health plans and insurers to cover all medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions.

At its June 5, 2020 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on a previous version of the bill.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Health Committee.

10. **SB 1474 (Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development): Business and Professions**

This bill would extend the Board’s sunset date for one year, until January 1, 2022. It also makes changes to other practice acts regulated by the state.

At its June 5, 2020 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on the provisions of the bill that would extend the Board’s sunset date.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.

BOARD-MONITORED LEGISLATION

1. **AB 8 (Chu and E. Garcia) Pupil Health: Mental Health Professionals**

This bill would require schools to employ at least one mental health professional for every 600 pupils by December 31, 2024.

This is a two-year bill that is still alive. It is unknown whether it will be scheduled for a hearing date this legislative session.

The Board considered the most recent version of this bill at its June 5, 2020 meeting and took a “support if amended” position. Staff then reached out to the author’s office to discuss the Board’s suggested amendments.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Health Committee.

2. **AB 1616 (Low) Department of Consumer Affairs: Boards: Expunged Convictions**

This bill would require DCA boards, upon a licensee’s or former licensee’s request and provision of a certified copy of expungement, to update their websites with notification of the expungement order (if the person is relicensed or reapplies for licensure) or to remove the posting of revocation and previously posted arrests, charges, and convictions, from the website (if the person’s license was revoked, they are no longer licensed, and have not reapplied).

The Board considered a previous version of this bill at its March 6, 2020 meeting, and took a “support if amended” position. Staff has relayed the Board’s concerns to the author’s office.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee.

3. **AB 2028 (Aguiar-Curry) State Agencies: Meetings**

This bill proposes two changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act:

- A change to require state bodies to post all meeting materials online at specified times in advance of the meeting (depending on the types of materials).
- A change to allow the public to comment on any agenda item of a state body’s meeting, regardless of whether the item had already been considered, and public comment allowed, at a committee meeting of the state body.

The Board considered a previous version of this bill at its June 5, 2020 meeting and took a “neutral” position.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization.

4. **AB 3045 (Gray) Department of Consumer Affairs: Boards: Veterans: Military Spouses: Licenses**

This bill would require certain boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to issue a license to an honorably discharged military member or the spouse of an active duty military member if they meet specified requirements.

The Board considered this bill at its June 5, 2020 meeting and took an “oppose unless amended” position. Staff has relayed the Board’s concerns to the author’s office.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development.

5. **SB 878 (Jones) Department of Consumer Affairs: License: Application: Processing Timeframes**

This bill would require the Board to post average license application processing timeframes on its website at least quarterly.

The Board considered a previous version of this bill at its June 5, 2020 meeting and took a “support if amended” position.

Status: This bill is currently in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.

6. **SB 1168 (Morrell) State Agencies: Licensing Services**

This bill proposed two things:

- Requiring the Board to establish a process for a person to defer fees required to obtain a license, renew or activate a license, or replace a physical display license if the person is experiencing economic hardship as a result of a state or federal emergency caused by a virus.
- Requiring the Board to establish a process to expedite licensing services for a person who has been displaced by or is experiencing economic hardship directly due to a state or federal emergency.

The Board considered this bill at its June 5, 2020 meeting and took an “oppose unless amended” position.

Status: This bill is now dead.

Updated: August 5, 2020