



Board of Behavioral Sciences

Memo

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To: Board Members
From: Rosanne Helms
Legislative Manager
Date: August 11, 2023
Telephone: (916) 574-7939
Subject: Legislative Update

BOARD-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

The Board is pursuing of the following legislative proposals this year.

1. **AB 232 (Aguiar-Curry) Temporary Practice Allowances**

This bill proposal would permit a person with a current, active, and unrestricted license in another state in a profession equivalent to the Board's marriage and family therapist, clinical social work, or professional clinical counselor professions to obtain a temporary practice allowance to provide services to a client travelling in or relocating to California for a period of 30 consecutive days in a calendar year, if certain specified conditions are met. The Board approved this proposal at its November 4, 2022 meeting, and approved additional technical amendments at its February 3, 2023, May 5, 2023, and June 8, 2023 meetings.

Status: This bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

2. **SB 887 (Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee) Consumer Affairs (Omnibus Bill Proposal)**

This bill proposal, approved by the Board at its November 4, 2022 meeting, makes two minor, technical, or non-substantive amendments to add clarity and consistency to current law as follows:

1. Amend BPC 4989.14: Includes MFT trainees in the list of allowable LEP supervisees.
2. Add BPC 4990.11: This section is being added to affirmatively state in the law that the Board's online license lookup may be used to verify a license or registration.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

BOARD-SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

1. **AB 665 (Carrillo) Minors: Consent to Mental Health Services**

This bill seeks to make the requirements for a minor to consent to mental health treatment equal for both Medi-Cal recipients and non-Medi-Cal recipients.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. Separate from its position, it also asked staff to make several technical suggestions to the bill, including correcting an incorrect reference to LEP statute, and making sure the “professional person” definitions in Family Code §6924 and Health and Safety Code §124260 matched. Both of these suggestions have been accommodated in an amended version of the bill.

Status: This bill is on third reading in the Senate.

2. **AB 1451 (Jackson) Urgent and Emergency Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment**

This bill requires a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024 that provides coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders to also cover treatment for urgent and emergent mental health and substance use disorders.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. Minor, technical amendments have been made to the bill since the Board took its position.

Status: This bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

3. **SB 11 (Menjivar) California State University: Mental Health Counseling**

This bill would require the California State University (CSU) system to have a minimum of one full-time mental health counselor per 1,500 students at each of its campuses. The bill also requires the CSU system to create a pipeline to incentivize interested students to become mental health counselors in the state.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. Since the Board took its position, amendments were made to the bill to further specify details of a grant program that would assist qualifying CSU students.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

4. **SB 238 (Wiener) Health Care Coverage: Independent Medical Review**

This bill seeks to reduce barriers to mental health care for children and young adults, by making the independent medical review process automatic, rather than

consumer-initiated, for mental health treatment and substance use disorder treatment denials for children and young adults up to age 26.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. Several amendments have been made to the bill since that time.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

5. **SB 372 (Menjivar) Department of Consumer Affairs: Licensee and Registrant Records: Name and Gender Changes**

This bill would require a licensing board under the Department of Consumer Affairs to update its records, including any records contained in its online license verification system, to include a licensee or registrant’s updated legal name or gender, and make the former name and gender confidential, when that licensee or registrant provides government-issued documentation that their legal name or gender has been changed.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. Several substantive amendments have been made to this bill since that time.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

6. **SB 373 (Menjivar) Board of Behavioral Sciences, Board of Psychology, and Medical Board of California: Licensees’ and Registrants’ Addresses**

This bill would prohibit the Board of Behavioral Sciences and the Board of Psychology from disclosing the full address of record of licensees and registrants on their internet web site. Instead, only the city, state, county, and zip code of a licensee or registrant must be disclosed by each board on the internet. This does not apply to secondary documents linked to a board’s website that may contain an address of record. The boards must still provide a licensee or registrant’s full address upon request in specified circumstances.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

7. **SB 509 (Portantino) School Employee and Pupil Training: Youth Mental and Behavioral Health: Mental Health Education**

This bill requires the Department of Education to make sure that at least 75 percent of its classified and certificated school employees at each school who have direct contact with pupils have received training in youth behavioral health. It also requires that all pupils in grades 1-12 receive evidence-based, age-appropriate

mental health education from trained instructors at least once in elementary school, at least once in junior high/middle school, and at least once in high school.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

8. [SB 513 \(Wiener\) Incarcerated Persons: Mental Health](#)

This bill seeks to provide regular mental health therapy to all incarcerated inmates in California, not just those who are classified as severely mentally ill, with a goal of rehabilitation and reduced recidivism.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This is a 2-year bill.

9. [SB 525 \(Durazo\) Minimum Wage: Health Care Workers](#)

This bill sets a statewide health care worker minimum wage of \$25 per hour for persons working in covered health care employment.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. Since that time, amendments were made to the bill.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

10. [SB 544 \(Laird\) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing](#)

This bill would modernize the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements for state bodies conducting a meeting by teleconferencing.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill.

Status: This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

BOARD-MONITORED LEGISLATION

1. [SB 766 \(Eggman\) Social Workers](#)

This bill would limit the use of the title “social worker” to only those who hold a degree from an accredited school of social work.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board considered the bill but did not take a position.

Status: This is a 2-year bill.

Updated: July 19, 2023