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To: Board Members **Date:** November 1, 2023
From: Rosanne Helms
Legislative Manager
Subject: Legislative Update

BOARD-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

The Board is pursued the following legislative proposals this year.

1. **[AB 232 \(Aguiar-Curry\) Temporary Practice Allowances](#)**

This bill permits 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 was signed by the Governor (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2023).

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:

- Amend BPC 4989.14: Includes MFT trainees in the list of allowable LEP supervisees.
- 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 was signed by the Governor (Chapter 510, Statutes of 2023).

BOARD-SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

1. **[AB 665 \(Carrillo\) Minors: Consent to Mental Health Services](#)**

This bill makes 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. The Board reaffirmed its “support” position at its August 18, 2023 meeting.

Status: This bill was signed by the Governor (Chapter 338, Statutes of 2023).

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

This bill would have required 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 emergency mental health and substance use disorders.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. However, some minor but substantive amendments have been made to the bill since the Board took its position.

Status: This bill was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message can be found [here](#).

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. The Board reaffirmed its “support” position at its August 18, 2023 meeting.

Status: This is a 2-year bill.

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. The Board reaffirmed its “support” position at its August 18, 2023 meeting.

Status: This is a 2-year bill.

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

This bill requires 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. The Board reaffirmed its “support” position at its August 18, 2023 meeting.

Status: This bill was signed by the Governor (Chapter 225, Statutes of 2023).

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

This bill would have prohibited the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Psychology and the Board of Veterinary Medicine 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 would not apply to secondary documents linked to a board’s website that may contain an address. The boards would still need to 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 was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message can be found [here](#).

7. **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.

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| BOARD-MONITORED LEGISLATION |
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1. **SB 143 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) State Government**

This bill conforms state statutes with recent federal law enabling the portability of professional licenses for servicemembers and spouses if specified requirements are met. The federal law requires state licensing entities, for a military member or their spouse who relocates due to military orders for military service, to consider their license valid if it is a similar scope of practice if they provide specified information.

The bill also extends previously expired exceptions to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to allow greater use of teleconference meetings, until December 31, 2023. (The revamped Bagley-Keene provisions to permanently increase teleconferencing options in SB 544 become law on January 1, 2024.)

Status: This bill was signed by the Governor. (Chapter 196, Statutes of 2023).

2. **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 40 percent of its classified and 100 percent of its certificated school employees who have direct contact with pupils in grades 7-12 have received training in youth behavioral health. It also requires that the health area of study for grades 1-6 to also include instruction on mental health.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on a previous version of this bill. However, numerous significant amendments were made since that time.

Status: This bill was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message can be found [here](#).

3. **SB 525 (Durazo) Minimum Wage: Health Care Workers**

This bill sets a multi-tiered statewide minimum wage for health care workers employed by covered healthcare facilities.

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

Status: The Governor signed this bill (Chapter 890, Statutes of 2023).

4. **SB 544 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing**

This bill would modernize the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements to allow for a new option for remote participation for some Board members if a majority of members are located at the same publicly accessible site.

At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a “support” position on this bill. The Board reaffirmed its “support” position at its August 18, 2023 meeting. However, significant amendments were made to the bill since that time.

Status: This bill was signed by the Governor (Chapter 216, Statutes of 2023).

5. **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: October 27, 2023