



Board of Behavioral Sciences

# Memo

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**To:** Committee Members

**Date:** September 30, 2025

**From:** Rosanne Helms  
Legislative Manager

**Subject:** Proposal to Add Additional Board Members

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## Summary

This memo discusses whether the Board should consider sponsoring legislation to expand its membership from 13 to 15 members by adding one licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) member and one public member. This recommendation is based on a review of comparable boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the continued growth of the Board's LPCC licensee population.

## History

Current law (Business and Professions Code (BPC) [§4990](#)) sets the composition of the Board as follows:

- Two California-licensed LCSWs
- One California-licensed LEP
- Two California-licensed LMFTs
- One California-licensed LPCC
- Seven public members

The last time members were added to the Board was in 2009, when SB 788 (Chapter 619, Statutes of 2009) established the LPCC license. At the time SB 788 was run, the Board had 11 members. Under SB 788, one public member was added effective in 2010, and one LPCC member was added effective in 2012, to bring the total to the 13 members we have today.

When introduced, SB 788 had originally proposed increasing the Board by four members: two LPCC members and two new public members. However, this was amended out of the bill as it moved through the Legislature, likely due to fiscal considerations.

## Composition of Other DCA Boards

**Chart 1** compares the composition of numerous boards under DCA. Key takeaways are as follows:

- There are other Boards of smaller or comparable size (Accountancy Board, Dental Board, Medical Board) that have 15 board members.
- Roughly equal number of boards are licensee majority vs public majority; this Board is public majority.
- Most boards (except Veterinary Medical Board) have an odd number of members, likely to prevent tie votes.
- There does not appear to be a meaningful correlation between size of licensing population and the number of board members.
- While many boards oversee only one or two practice acts, this Board is responsible for regulating four distinct practice acts.

## Board Registrant and Licensee Population

The Board's registrant and license population growth over time is summarized below:

<b>Board of Behavioral Sciences Licensee and Registrant Population</b>					
<b>Population [1]</b>					
<b>License or Registration Type</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>	<b>FY 2021-2022</b>	<b>FY 2024-2025</b>	<b>Percent Change 2015-2025</b>
<b><u>Registrants [1]</u></b>					
AMFT	19,783	16,613	14,678	16,945	-14%
ASW	15,748	15,862	16,517	19,574	24%
APCC	1,940	4,208	6,104	7,248	<b>274%</b>
<b><u>Licensees [1]</u></b>					
LMFT	38,123	46,500	51,804	55,002	44%
LEP	2,138	2,086	2,158	2,280	7%
LCSW	22,728	29,703	35,012	39,425	73%
LPCC	1,390	1,946	3,266	4,862	<b>250%</b>
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	<b>101,850</b>	<b>116,918</b>	<b>129,539</b>	<b>145,336</b>	<b>43%</b>
[1] License and registrant population includes those that are current, delinquent, and inactive.					

It should be noted that 1,744 of the Board's 4,862 total LPCC licensees (35.8%) are dually licensed, meaning that they hold another license with the Board. For LMFTs, that number is 2,816 out of 55,002 (5.1%).

### **Recommendation**

Conduct an open discussion on whether to pursue legislation to increase the Board's membership by two additional members.

### **Attachment**

**Chart 1:** DCA Board Composition Comparison

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**Chart 1**  
**DCA Board Composition Comparison**

<b>Board Name</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Majority Public or Licensee?</b>	<b>Estimated Licenses [1]</b>	<b>Estimated Licenses per Board Member</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>
Board of Accountancy	15	Public	74,318	4,955	Business and Professions Code §5000
Contractor's State Licensing Board	15	Public	316,663	21,111	Business and Professions Code §7002
Dental Board of California	15	Licensee	81,026	5,402	Business and Professions Code §1601.1
Medical Board of California	15	Licensee	179,035	11,936	Business and Professions Code §2001
Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists	15	Public	185,656	12,377	Business and Professions Code §6711
Board of Behavioral Sciences	13	Public	137,480	10,575	Business and Professions Code §4990
Board of Pharmacy	13	Licensee	138,104	10,623	Business and Professions Code §4001
Board of Barbering and Cosmetology	13	Public	561,865	43,220	Business and Professions Code §7303
California State Board of Optometry	11	Licensee	16,535	1,503	Business and Professions Code §3010.5
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians	11	Public	146,709	13,337	Business and Professions Code §2842
Architects Board	10	Equal	21,775	2,178	Business and Professions Code §5514
Board of Registered Nursing	9	Licensee	648,738	72,082	Business and Professions Code §§2701/2702
Board of Psychology	9	Licensee	26,169	2,908	Business and Professions Code §2920
Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology , Hearing Aid Dispensers Board	9	Licensee	39,834	4,426	Business and Professions Code §2531
Osteopathic Medical Board	9	Licensee	16,957	1,884	Business and Professions Code §3621
Veterinary Medical Board	8	Licensee	44,142	5,518	Business and Professions Code §4800
Athletic Commission	7	All Public	3,462	495	Business and Professions Code §18602
Physical Therapy Board	7	Licensee	37,970	5,424	Business and Professions Code §2603
Structural Pest Control Board	7	Public	31,805	4,544	Business and Professions Code §8521
California Board of Occupational Therapy	7	Licensee	20,281	2,897	Business and Professions Code §2570.19
California Board of Podiatric Medicine	7	Licensee	2,671	382	Business and Professions Code §2462

[1] Data reflects total license population for FY 2022-2023. Some boards include permits in license counts, which are included in the totals.