



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 20, 2026
TO	California Board of Behavioral Sciences
FROM	Rosanne Helms, Legislative Manager
SUBJECT	Legislative Update

BOARD-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

The Board is pursuing the following legislative proposals this year:

1. **AB 1598 (Quirk-Silva): Behavioral Sciences**

This proposal represents the first step in restructuring and modernizing the Board’s licensing process in order to make the path to licensure more accessible and responsive to real-world challenges faced by applicants without compromising the standards required for safe and competent practice. Key amendments are as follows:

- Removes the requirement for associates to attempt the California Law and Ethics Exam each year in order to renew their registration.
- Requires the California Law and Ethics Exam to be passed no more than seven years prior to application for an initial license.
- Increases the amount of time supervised experience hours remain valid from six to seven years.
- Increases the maximum number of associate registration renewals from five to six, allowing a total of seven years of registration before a new number is required.
- Allows associates with a subsequent registration number to request a one-time, two-year hardship extension to work in one private practice setting with their subsequent registration number.

Additionally, this bill modernizes the exemption language for faith-based counseling by clarifying the criteria for when faith-based counseling is exempt from licensure.

The Board approved these proposed amendments at its August 22, 2025 meeting.

Status: This bill was introduced on January 16, 2026.

2. Technical and/or Nonsubstantive Amendments (No Bill Number Assigned at This Time)

The Board identified several technical or nonsubstantive amendments needed to clarify or clean up its current practice acts. They are as follows:

- Amendments to clarify when supervisors must assess for appropriateness of utilizing videoconference supervision.
- Amendments to modernize the statutes requiring coursework in human sexuality and child abuse assessment.
- Amendments to correct references to incorrect section numbers.
- Technical amendments to the advertising and client disclosure requirements to make the requirements consistent across the Board's license types.

The Board approved these proposed amendments at its September 20, 2024 and November 21, 2025 meetings.