

Date of Hearing: April 10, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
AB 545 (Low) – As Introduced February 13, 2019

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill applies “sunset review”-like provisions to the Bureau of Cannabis Control (BCC) and the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel, stating they are subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature as though their authority was to be repealed as of January 1, 2021.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Negligible.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, this bill will provide responsible legislative oversight of cannabis regulatory agencies through the sunset review process. Currently, the BCC is the only board or bureau under the Department of Consumer Affairs that does not go through sunset review.
- 2) **Background.** In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, legalizing the use of medical cannabis in the state. The state began regulating medical cannabis in 2016 and, later that year, California voters passed Proposition 64, which legalized the recreational use of cannabis beginning in 2018. The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act forms the combined regulatory structure for the voter-approved provisions as merged with the prior medical cannabis regulatory structure. The BCC was made responsible for licensing and oversight of most cannabis activities, and a sunset was not applied at its creation.
- 3) **Sunset Review.** In order to ensure California’s professional boards and bureaus are meeting the state’s public protection priorities, authorizing statutes for these regulatory bodies are subject to statutory dates of repeal, at which point the entity “sunsets” unless the date is extended by the Legislature. The sunset process provides a regular forum for discussion around the successes and challenges of various programs and the consideration of proposed changes to laws governing the regulation of professionals.

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