
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1501 (Berman) - Physician assistants and podiatrists

Version: July 17, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1501 is the sunset bill for the Physician Assistant Board (PAB) and Podiatric Medical Board of California (PMBC) and extends the operation of both programs until January 1, 2030 as well as makes changes recommended during the joint sunset review of the PAB and PMBC.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Physician Assistant Board.* The 2025-26 Budget Act provides approximately \$3.199 million (Physician Assistant Fund) and 11.0 positions to support the continued operation of the PAB. The PAB notes the following other fiscal impacts resulting from the provisions of this bill:
 - Revenue increase of approximately \$43,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 and \$86,000 annually thereafter from the proposed floor fee level increases. If all fees are set to the new statutory caps, revenues to the PAB would increase by up to \$2.4 million per year. PAB notes it would be required to promulgate regulations to increase fees within the statutory limit.
 - Minor and absorbable costs to update regulations.
- *Podiatric Medical Board of California.* The 2025-26 Budget Act provides approximately \$1.632 million (Board of Podiatric Medicine Fund) and 5.2 positions to support the continued operation of the PMBC. The PMBC notes updating the biennial renewal fee as proposed by this bill will increase revenues by approximately \$288,000 in FY 2025-26 and \$576,000 annually thereafter.
- The Office of Information Services within the Department of Consumer Affairs reports minor costs of approximately \$9,000 to deactivate obsolete fee codes for the PAB and PMBC, which is anticipated to be absorbable through the redirection of existing IT maintenance resources.

Background: In March 2025, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of ten regulatory entities, including the PAB and PMBC. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year.

Proposed Law:

- Extends the operations of PMBC and PAB until January 1, 2030.
- Eliminates obsolete fee references for fees PMBC no longer charges.
- Adds “podiatric surgeon” to the titles someone is prohibited from using unless they are a PMBC licensee.
- States the policy of this state that a doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM) shall not be classified or treated as an ancillary provider or other allied health professional in any health care setting or insurance reimbursement structure for any purpose.
- Updates the DPM biennial licensure renewal fee from \$1,318 to \$1,900.
- Makes various necessary updates to reflect that PAB does not approve PA training programs
- Updates PAB fees as follows:
 - Raises the application fee from \$25 to \$60, and raises the application fee cap to \$80.
 - Raises the initial license fee cap from \$250 to \$500.
 - Raises the biennial license renewal fee cap from \$300 to \$500.
 - Raises the delinquency fee from \$25 to \$75.
 - Raises the fee for a letter of endorsement, letter of good standing, or letter of verification of licensure from \$10 to \$50.
- States legislative intent that, in recognition of the vital role PAs play in delivering safe, effective, and accessible health care across California, a comprehensive review of practice agreement structures be undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders. This review should consider how practice agreements are utilized in other states and evaluate their potential benefits or detriments to patient care, workforce efficiency, and regulatory oversight.
- Increases the physician to PA ratio from 1:4 to 1:8.
- Makes various technical changes to fix incorrect cross-references, removes gendered language, and makes conforming changes.

Related Legislation: SB 774 (Ashby, 2025) is the Department of Real Estate and Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers sunset bill. SB 774 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 775 (Ashby, 2025) is the Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences sunset bill. SB 775 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 776 (Ashby, 2025) is the Board of Optometry sunset bill. SB 776 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1502 (Berman, 2025) is the California Veterinary Medical Board sunset bill. AB 1502 is pending in this committee.

AB 1503 (Berman, 2025) is the California State Board of Pharmacy sunset bill. AB 1503 is pending in this committee.

AB 1504 (Berman, 2025) is the California Massage Therapy Council sunset bill. AB 1504 is pending in this committee.

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