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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 1503 (Berman) - Pharmacy

**Version:** July 17, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** B., P. & E.D. 10 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** AB 1503 is the sunset bill for the Board of Pharmacy and extends the operation of the Board until January 1, 2030 as well as makes changes recommended during the joint sunset review of the Board.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- The 2025-26 Budget Act provides approximately \$36.446 million (Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund) and 140.6 positions to support the continued operation of the Board. The Board notes the following other fiscal impacts resulting from the provisions of this bill:
  - Annual revenue loss of approximately \$15,000 from waived application fees for pharmacies operating in medically underserved areas, which is anticipated to be absorbable.
  - Minor and absorbable costs to update educational materials and repeal obsolete regulations.
- The Office of Information Services within the Department of Consumer Affairs reports minor costs of approximately \$4,000 to create new enforcement codes and update fee waiver codes, which is anticipated to be absorbable within existing 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 Board. 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 Board operations to January 1, 2030 and makes various changes to the Pharmacy Law, which include, among others:

- Revise the pharmacy technician to pharmacist ratio to allow up to three pharmacy technicians to work in a pharmacy for each pharmacist.
- Define “accepted standard of care” as the degree of care a prudent and reasonable pharmacist licensed pursuant to the Pharmacy Law, with similar education, training, experience, resources, and setting, would exercise in a similar situation. Requires pharmacists to provide specified services and activities consistent with the accepted standard of care, including when authorizing the initiation of a prescription.

- Repeal various statutes providing pharmacists with specific authority to perform certain services or functions and instead amends the Pharmacy Law to more broadly authorize pharmacists to perform various services and functions, subject to specified conditions, unless the pharmacist has made a professional determination that the pharmacist would not be able to perform the service or function properly or safely.
- Require the Board to establish and appoint a Pharmacy Technician Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to the Board on matters relating to pharmacy technicians.
- Authorize pharmacy technician trainees to receive their training from an accredited employer-based pharmacy technician training program
- Require the Board to waive the application fee, and authorize the Board to waive the renewal fee, for a pharmacy that opens or maintains a physical pharmacy operating and located in a medically underserved area.
- Revise Board authority to bring an action for increased fines against a chain community pharmacy for violations of the Pharmacy Law by allowing the Board to demonstrate that the violation was expressly encouraged by any owner or manager.
- Extend the Board's authority to bring an action for increased fines against certain pharmacies for repeat violations of the Pharmacy Law to allow for similar actions to be brought against mail order pharmacies.
- Clarify that violations of Pharmacy Law by a Board licensee shall be determined exclusively by the Board.
- Authorize a pharmacist to furnish FDA- approved or authorized medications as part of preventative health care services that do not require a diagnosis including emergency contraception, contraception, smoking cessation, travel medications, and anti-viral or anti-infective medications.
- Authorize a pharmacist to initiate and administer any FDA-approved or authorized immunization for persons three years of age and older consistent with best evidenced based practice.
- Continue the authority for a pharmacist to authorize a pharmacist to furnish COVID-19 oral therapeutics following a positive test for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

**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 1501 (Berman, 2025) is the Physician Assistant Board and Podiatric Medical Board of California sunset bill. AB 1501 is pending in this committee.

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