
CONSENT

Bill No: AB 1760
Author: Arambula (D)
Amended: 6/3/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/8/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Umberg

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Dentistry

SOURCE: Dental Board of California

DIGEST: This bill makes several substantive, technical amendments to the Dental Practice Act administered by the Dental Board of California (DBC).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Dental Practice Act (Act) to regulate the practice of dentistry and be administered and enforced by the Dental Board of California (Board or DBC). (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 1600 *et. seq.*)
- 2) Defines “dentistry” as the diagnosis or treatment, by surgery or other method, of diseases and lesions and the correction of malpositions of the human teeth,

alveolar process, gums, jaws, or associated structures; diagnosis or treatment may include all necessary related procedures as well as the use of drugs, anesthetic agents, and physical evaluation. (BPC § 1625)

- 3) Provides that any person is eligible to take an examination before the DBC upon making application and meeting specified requirements, including furnishing evidence of financial responsibility or liability insurance for injuries sustained or claimed to be sustained by a dental patient in the course of the examination as a result of the applicant's actions. (BPC § 1628(c))
- 4) Prohibits an applicant who has been issued a dental diploma from a foreign dental school that has not been approved by the board from being eligible for examination until the applicant has successfully completed a minimum of two academic years of education at a dental college approved by the board, unless the applicant successfully completed the requirements of BPC Section 1628.2 on or before December 31, 2008. (BPC § 1628(e))
- 5) Exempts an applicant from reexamination on a subject in subsequent examinations before the board within two years after the examination on which the applicant received a grading of 85 percent. An applicant who fails to pass the examination after three attempts is not eligible for further reexamination until the applicant has successfully completed a minimum of 50 hours of education for each subject which the applicant failed in the applicant's last unsuccessful examination, as specified. (BPC § 1633)
- 6) Establishes requirements for the Licensure by Credential (LBC) pathway and requires applicants to submit proof of an active and unrestricted license issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States to practice dentistry that is not subject to any current or pending disciplinary action such as revocation, suspension, or probation. (BPC § 1635.5(a))
- 7) Requires the DBC to review the impact of the LBC pathway on availability of dentists in California and report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, as specified, by January 1, 2008. (BPC § 1635.5(c))
- 8) Requires a holder of a license issued under the LBC pathway before January 1, 2006, who committed to complete the remainder of the five years of clinical practice requirement by a contract either to practice dentistry in a facility or to teach or practice dentistry in an accredited dental education program approved by the Board, to complete only two years of service under the contract in order to fulfill the clinical practice obligation. (BPC § 1635.5(f))

- 9) Requires licensed dentists who wish to perform elective facial cosmetic surgery to possess a permit to perform specified categories of elective facial cosmetic surgical procedures. (BPC § 1638.1)
- 10) Requires the board to appoint a credentialing committee to review the qualifications of each applicant for a facial cosmetic surgery permit; requires the committee to recommend to the board whether or not issue a permit upon completion of the review of an applicant; states the permit may be unqualified, entitling the permitholder to perform any facial cosmetic surgical procedure authorized or it may contain limitations if the credentialing committee is not satisfied that the applicant has the training or competence to perform certain classes of procedures, or if the applicant has not requested to be permitted for all procedures authorized by the permit. (BPC § 1638.1(e)(1))
- 11) Establishes licensure requirements by the DBC as a registered dental assistant in extended functions (RDAEF), including completing an extended functions postsecondary program approved by the board that teaches the duties that an RDAEF was allowed to perform pursuant to board regulations prior to January 1, 2010, and a course as specified by BPC § 1753.5. (BPC § 1753)
- 12) Authorizes an RDAEF licensed on or after January 1, 2010, to perform additional procedures under direct supervision and pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a licensed dentist, as specified. (BPC § 1753.5(b))
- 13) Defines a dental assistant as an individual who, without a license, may perform basic supportive dental procedures, as defined, under the supervision of a licensed dentist. (BPC § 1750 (a))
- 14) Requires a dental assistant to complete a board-approved course in radiation safety to perform radiographic procedures. (BPC § 1750(f)(3))
- 15) Requires a radiation safety course to have the primary purpose of providing theory, laboratory, and clinical application in radiographic techniques; establishes criteria for DBC approval of a radiation safety course provider; defines course provider responsibilities, prerequisites (including completion of a Board-approved infection control course), curriculum, and requirements for students to demonstrate successful completion to the Board. (BPC § 1754.5)

This bill makes various amendments to complete policy reforms that were discussed during the sunset review of DBC and initiated by the board's sunset vehicle, SB 1454 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024).

Background

Dental Board and Sunset Review of Licensing Board and Programs. The DBC is responsible for licensing and regulating dental professionals in California. the DBC licenses an estimated 112,000 dental professionals, of which approximately 43,000 are fully licensed dentists; 46,000 are registered dental assistants (RDAs); and 2,300 are registered dental assistants in extended functions (RDAEFs). The DBC is also responsible for setting the duties and functions of an estimated 50,000 unlicensed dental assistants.

In March 2024, 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 DBC. The Committees conducted two oversight hearings and the Board's sunset extension bill, SB 1453 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024), enacted policy reforms that were discussed in the Background Paper prepared by Committee staff for the Board.

This bill makes amendments that, with the benefit of hindsight, could have been proposed for inclusion in SB 1453 to carry out the intent of the policy areas being amended. Consequently, the amendments of this bill are not substantive policy changes; rather they are conforming or clarifying amendments to policy areas that were revised by SB 1453.

Licensure by Portfolio Pathway. Licensure by portfolio was an alternative pathway to licensure as a dentist in California, available to applicants since November 2014. Under portfolio licensure requirements, instead of taking a single examination, students built a portfolio of completed clinical experience and clinical competency examinations in six subject areas over the normal course of their clinical training during dental school. The portfolio option gave students in California an alternative to being tested on a live patient over the course of one weekend. The applicant's portfolio was assessed for demonstration of experience and competencies following a letter of good standing signed by the dean of the applicant's dental school. The applicant must also pass Parts I and II of the National Board Written Examinations.

Concerns were raised because California had the distinction of being one of the first states to pursue this method of qualifying for licensure so dentists who obtained their license through the portfolio pathway may face difficulties when seeking reciprocal acknowledgment of qualification by other states. DBC was tasked during the prior sunset review oversight in 2019 with answering whether the process is an effective alternative to conventional examinations. Following the

sunset review oversight discussions, DBC requested DCA's Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) to review the Portfolio Examination for continued use for California licensure of dentists. In its final report on the Portfolio Examination, OPES raised several psychometric issues of concern, which were discussed by the DBC.

OPES recommended that DBC initiate a process to eliminate the Portfolio Examination as a pathway to licensure, a proposal that DBC approved, suggesting amendments to BPC Sections 1632, 1632.5, and 1632.55, and a repeal of BPC Section 1632.1, which were enacted by SB 1454. Subsequent to SB 1454, additional amendments were identified that were necessary to eliminate references and requirements of licensure by portfolio, which are proposed by this bill.

Licensure by Credential (LBC) Pathway. According to DBC, requirements in BPC §1635.5 for the LBC pathway prompted many questions and complaints from applicants seeking clarification on several aspects of the requirements such as: what qualifies as "otherwise restricted" under the law; minimal practice requirements for licensure; residency credit towards licensure; changes in clinical practice contracts; and what constitutes failure to comply or complete those contracts and the consequences to the underlying license.

The board recommended amending (BPC § 1635.5) to clarify clinical practice work requirements and how much credit residency programs will count towards the total hours required for licensure. The board also requested adding a requirement for those seeking work credit through a contractual agreement to teach and/or practice dentistry to submit written documentation verifying compliance with the requirement. This would further specify how many hours per week an applicant must work and/or teach under such a contractual agreement.

SB 1454 made significant changes to clarify how many hours would be credited toward meeting clinical practice requirements to qualify for licensure under the LBC pathway. This bill makes technical amendments to this section.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/4/26)

Dental Board of California (source)
California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers
California Dental Assistants Association
California Extended Functions Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/4/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Dental Board of California writes, “This bill consolidates technical, non-controversial, and substantive cleanup items approved by the Board—In public meetings between November 2024 and February 2026—to refine various provisions of the Dental Practice Act (DPA) and ensure statutory language aligns with current regulatory standards and consumer protection needs. While these items are typically addressed during the Sunset Review process, waiting for the Board’s next cycle in 2028–2029 would leave in place several statutory impediments and inconsistencies for effective administration of the DPA.”

California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers writes in support, “The dental assisting community, along with key stakeholders, has worked diligently over several years to address infection control standards. We believe the provisions outlined in this bill are practical, well-balanced, and in the best interest of patient safety, the dental workforce, and the public.”

California Dental Assistants Association writes, “Over the past several years, the dental assisting community—working collaboratively with key stakeholders—has made significant efforts to strengthen infection control standards. We believe this bill reflects those efforts, offering practical, well-balanced provisions that prioritize patient safety, support the dental workforce, and serve the broader public interest.”

California Extended Functions Society notes, “The dental assisting community, along with key stakeholders, has worked diligently over several years to address infection control standards. We believe the provisions outlined in this bill, as a starting point for entry-level dental assistants, to be practical, well-balanced, and in the best interest of patient safety, the dental workforce, and the public.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26

AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos,

Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz,
Solache, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Hadwick, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins,
Soria, Wicks

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. /
8/5/26 14:57:41

**** **END** ****