

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1760 (Arambula)

As Amended June 3, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Makes numerous minor changes and technical corrections to various provisions of the Dental Practice Act.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Strike a number of provisions from the bill.
- 2) Make additional technical corrections and nonsubstantive changes.

COMMENTS

Dental Board of California. The Dental Board of California (DBC) is responsible for licensing and regulating dental professionals in California. The DBC was originally created as the Board of Dental Examiners in 1885 during the twenty-sixth session of the California Legislature. Today, the DBC licenses an estimated 112,000 dental professionals, of which approximately 43,500 are licensed dentists; 46,000 are RDAs; and 2,300 are registered dental assistant in extended functions (RDAEFs). The DBC is also responsible for setting the duties and functions of unlicensed dental assistants. Dental hygienists are licensed and regulated by a separate and distinct regulatory body, the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

The Dental Assisting Council within the DBC makes recommendations regarding the DBC's regulation of dental assistants. Three categories of dental assistants are regulated by the DBC, distinguished by what duties they may perform based on their training. This includes unlicensed dental assistants, authorized to perform "basic supportive dental procedures"; RDAs, authorized to perform more complex duties; and RDAEFs, authorized to perform additional restorative procedures following diagnosis and intervention by a dentist.

Sunset review. In order to ensure that California's myriad 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 "sunset" 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. Currently, the sunset review process applies to approximately three dozen different boards and bureaus under the DCA, as well as the Department of Real Estate and three nongovernmental nonprofit councils.

The DBC last underwent sunset review in 2024. The background paper for the DBC's sunset review oversight hearing contained a total of 17 issues and recommendations, each of which was eligible to result in statutory changes enacted through the DBC's sunset bill. SB 1453 (Ashby) Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024 was subsequently enacted to extend the DBC's sunset and make various technical changes, statutory improvements, and policy reforms in response to issues raised during the Legislature's joint sunset review of the DBC.

Licensure by Portfolio. Issue #6 in the DBC's sunset background paper discussed the Licensure by Portfolio pathway. Under this pathway, instead of taking a single examination, students built a portfolio of completed clinical experiences and competency examinations in six subject areas over the course of their clinical training during dental school. The portfolio option was intended to give students an alternative to being tested on a live patient over the course of one weekend; however, concerns were raised that because California was one of the first states to establish this pathway, dentists who have obtained their license through that portfolio pathway faced difficulties when seeking reciprocal acknowledgment of qualification by other states.

Following the DBC's sunset review in 2019, the DBC requested that the DCA's Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) review the Licensure by Portfolio examination. OPES subsequently raised several psychometric issues of concern and recommended that the DBC initiate a process to eliminate that pathway to licensure. The DBC then ultimately voted to recommend repealing Licensure by Portfolio from the Dental Practice Act. The DBC noted in its sunset report that this pathway has been utilized by a small number of applicants since it was originally established but requires a significant amount of time and effort to maintain, including updating the necessary examination for licensure through this pathway. SB 1453 subsequently eliminated the Licensure by Portfolio pathway; this bill would repeal vestigial provisions of law referencing that obsolete program.

Licensure by Credential. Issue #7 in the DBC's sunset background paper discussed the pathway through which applicants who are licensed in good standing as dentists in another state meet specified clinical practice requirements to qualify for licensure in California. The DBC provided language in SB 1453 to clarify clinical practice work requirements and how much credit residency programs will count towards the total hours required for licensure. This bill would make additional changes to the requirements for licensure under that pathway.

Additional Technical Changes. Issue #16 in the DBC's background paper recognized that there are amendments to the Dental Practice Act that are technical in nature but may improve DBC operations and the enforcement of the law. SB 1453 included myriad technical changes to the Dental Practice Act suggested by committee staff or the DBC. This bill would make various additional minor changes and technical corrections to the Dental Practice Act recommended by the DBC.

A prior version of this bill would have made additional changes to the infection control training requirements for dental assistants; these provisions were removed from this bill.

According to the Author

"This legislation, sponsored by the Dental Board of California, contains various technical and substantive cleanup provisions to the Dental Practice Act approved by the Board between November 2024 and February of this year. This bill serves as a comprehensive omnibus vehicle to refine the Business and Professions Code, ensuring statutory language reflects current Board policies, corrects outdated cross-references, and removes expired pathways to licensure. The justification for pursuing this bill now, rather than waiting for the Board's next sunset review in 2028, centers on the need to protect the dental consumers of California with administrative urgency, and legislative efficiency. While "Sunset" bills are most common for traditional substantive and non-substantive changes, waiting for the Board's next Sunset cycle would leave in place several statutory impediments and inconsistencies for effective administration of the Dental Practice Act in California."

Arguments in Support

The *Dental Board of California* (DBC) is sponsoring this bill. The DBC 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. This bill serves as a comprehensive omnibus vehicle to optimize the Board's efficiency and protect the public."

Arguments in Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

Pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

VOTES:**ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 19-0-0**

YES: Berman, Johnson, Addis, Ahrens, Alanis, Bains, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Chen, Elhawary, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pellerin

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Pellerin

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-6

YES: 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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Addis, Hadwick, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Wicks

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNeerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil

UPDATED

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