

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2141 (Patterson) – As Amended March 19, 2026

Policy Committee:	Business and Professions	Vote:	19 - 0
	Judiciary		12 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the California State Board of Pharmacy (Board) to resolve a potential cause for discipline by a licensee through a stipulated settlement agreement without first filing a formal accusation.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes the Board and a licensee to enter into a stipulated settlement and disciplinary order without, and in advance of, the filing of an accusation or other agency pleading.
- 2) Requires a pre-accusation settlement to meet the following conditions:
  - a) Enforcement staff or investigators for the Board conducted an inspection or investigation as provided for in the Pharmacy Law and substantiated violations of law.
  - b) Enforcement staff at the Board provided the licensee with findings of the violations in writing, and a notice of possible eligibility for a stipulated settlement and disciplinary order.
  - c) The licensee, within 15 days of being provided with the findings of the violations, notified the Board in writing of the licensee’s willingness to waive the administrative adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and to consider a stipulated settlement and disciplinary order as an alternative to action taken on the basis of a pleading.
  - d) The licensee submitted mitigation and rehabilitation information, as specified in the board’s disciplinary guidelines.
- 3) Requires a committee consisting of the board’s executive officer, two members of the board, one public member, and one licensee member consider the mitigation and rehabilitation information and provides the committee with discretion to extend a stipulated settlement and disciplinary order offer to the licensee.
- 4) Requires a stipulated settlement and disciplinary order, incorporating the findings of the violations, to be agreed to in writing between the committee and licensee within 60 calendar days of the date of the licensee’s waiver of the APA and provides that the settlement is

contingent upon approval by the board, except as specified.

- 5) Requires the board to file the appropriate disciplinary pleading if the committee and the licensee fail to reach an agreement, as specified.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

The Board states this bill shifts legal workload from the Office of the Attorney General to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Legal Office. The Board estimates 90 cases per year and costs of \$284,000 in 2026-27 and \$276,000 in 2027-28 and ongoing for an Attorney III position (Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund).

The Board states it could incur expenditures on implementation activities that will exceed the Board's usual implementation costs that focus on education. However, the Board is unable to quantify the costs (Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund).

The DCA Office of Information Services estimates adding new enforcement codes will cost \$1,000, which is absorbable.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

This bill remedies a situation that requires formal accusations to be filed against licensees. Instead, this measure will allow the Board of Pharmacy and licensees to enter into stipulated settlements and disciplinary orders before an accusation is filed. This improves efficiency, conserves state resources, and allows the Board to focus its efforts on matters that jeopardize public health and safety.

- 2) **Background.** Under existing law, the Board must initiate formal disciplinary proceedings by filing an accusation under an administrative process set forth in the APA. While settlements are common, they typically occur only after the formal accusation has been filed. According to the author and sponsor, the requirement that the board initiate formal disciplinary proceedings in order to resolve a potential disciplinary action creates inefficiencies, especially in cases where violations have already been substantiated and both the board and licensee are willing to resolve the matter early without need of a formal accusation.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081