

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2774 (Berman)

As Amended August 13, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Extends the operation of the Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC) and makes other changes in response to issues raised during the PTBC's sunset review oversight process.

Senate Amendments

Authorize the PTBC to increase specified physical therapist (PT) and physical therapist assistant (PTA) license fees.

COMMENTS

Background. The PTBC is responsible for administering and enforcing the Physical Therapy Practice Act, which establishes the board and contains the regulatory framework for the practice of physical therapy. According to the PTBC:

The practice of physical therapy combines art and science to enhance quality of life and movement potential through promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. This scope includes physical, psychological, emotional, and social well-being. Physical therapy is delivered through collaboration between the physical therapist, patients/clients, other health professionals, families, caregivers, and communities. In this process, movement potential is assessed, and goals are established, using knowledge and skills unique to physical therapists.

The PTBC's primary function is to run the licensing, education, and disciplinary programs for physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapy assistants (PTAs). The PTBC also regulates unlicensed physical therapy aides and physical therapy students.

At the end of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, the PTBC reported a total of 40,278 active, in-state licensees, including 31,023 PTs and 9,255 PTAs. It also reported 50 approved educational programs in California, 20 PT programs and 30 PTA programs.

The PTBC's mission statement, as stated in its *2024-2029 Strategic Plan*, is: "To protect the people of California by the effective administration of the Physical Therapy Practice Act."

Sunset Review. The PTBC is currently under sunset review. As part of that review, committee staff publish background papers that identify outstanding issues related to the entity being reviewed. This bill addresses some of the identified issues while others remain in active discussion. The most recent status of the issues are discussed further in the policy committee analysis.

According to the Author

Each year, the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development hold joint sunset review oversight hearings to review the licensing entities under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The DCA boards, bureaus, and other entities are responsible for protecting consumers and the public and

regulating the professionals they license. The sunset review process provides an opportunity for the legislature, DCA, licensing entities, and stakeholders to discuss the entities' performance and make recommendations for improvements.

Each licensing entity subject to review has an enacting statute with a repeal date, meaning their authority must be extended by the legislature before the repeal date, otherwise the entity will lose its statutory mandate. This bill is a "sunset" bill, intended to extend the repeal date of the PTBC, as well as incorporate the recommendations from the sunset review oversight hearings. This year there are ten boards up for review, each with their own sunset bill. Five of the sunset review bills are authored by the chair of the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the other five are authored by the chair of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development.

Arguments in Support

The *PTBC* writes in support, "These provisions reflect issues identified during the sunset review process and support PTBC's mission "to protect the people of California by the effective administration of the Physical Therapy Practice Act." The Board continues to work collaboratively with the Legislature and stakeholders on remaining sunset review items still under discussion."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The Board does not anticipate any additional fiscal impact, as the bill adjusts the statutory fee ceilings without changing established fees, creating new programs, expanding enforcement duties, or adding to administrative workload. Although the bill increases these statutory caps, there will not be a corresponding increase in revenue until formal regulatory action is taken. Likewise, the bill increases the default floor, but maintains the Board's authority to decrease the fees as needed.

VOTES:

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 18-0-1

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caloza

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-2

YES: Addis, 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, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

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

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CONSULTANT: Vincent Chee / B. & P. / (916) 319-3301

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