

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2775 (Berman)

As Amended August 19, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Schedules the next sunset review of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners (BCE) to occur in four years and makes other changes in response to issues raised during the BCE's sunset review oversight process.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Increase various fees and their statutory caps.
- 2) Authorize the BCE to establish a system for issuing a temporary license.
- 3) Authorize the BCE to automatically revoke the license of a licensee convicted of specified insurance fraud offenses.

COMMENTS

Background. The BCE's purpose is to protect Californians from both licensed and unlicensed individuals who engage in the fraudulent, negligent, or incompetent practice of chiropractic. Chiropractic is a healthcare discipline that emphasizes the body's ability to heal itself. The practice focuses on the interaction between the vertebral column and the nervous system and that relationship's impact on overall health. The primary treatment procedure is the chiropractic adjustment or spinal manipulative therapy, but other manual therapies are also utilized. Chiropractic also emphasizes lifestyle interventions like nutrition or exercise counseling.

The licensed practitioners of chiropractic are DCs. In alignment with the foundations of their practice, DCs are authorized to manipulate and adjust the spinal column and other joints of the human body and manipulate the related muscle and connective tissue during the course of those manipulations and adjustments. DCs may also use all necessary mechanical, hygienic and sanitary measures incident to the care of the human body during the course of chiropractic manipulations or adjustments.

The BCE was responsible for regulating approximately 10,700 DC licensees at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. In addition to licensing individual licensees, the BCE oversees 106 providers of chiropractic continuing education and 20 chiropractic programs throughout the United States and Canada. The BCE's mission statement, as stated in its *2026 Sunset Review Report*, is: "to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public through licensure, education, engagement, and enforcement in chiropractic care."

Sunset Review. The BCE 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 boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The DCA boards 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, boards, and interested parties and stakeholders to discuss the performance of the boards and make recommendations for improvements.

Each board subject to review has an enacting statute that has a repeal date, which means each board requires an extension before the repeal date. This bill is one of the "sunset" bills that are intended to extend the repeal date of the boards undergoing sunset review, as well as include the recommendations from the sunset review oversight hearings. While the BCE cannot be repealed by the Legislature because it is established by initiative, this bill would extend the statutory review date.

This year, there are five sunset review bills authored by the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and five sunset review bills authored by the Chair of the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee.

Arguments in Support

The *BCE* writes in support:

This bill significantly strengthens consumer protection by authorizing the Board to automatically revoke a license to practice chiropractic when a licensee has been convicted of a sex offense and to automatically suspend a license following a conviction of a serious felony. This bill also removes the seven-year limitation on denying a license to an applicant based on prior formal discipline when that discipline was based on conduct that would have constituted an act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, if committed in this state by a licensed chiropractor.

Chiropractic is a hands-on profession that requires direct physical contact between the doctor and the patient during nearly every treatment session. Primary chiropractic interventions such as spinal and extremity manipulation and soft tissue therapies necessitate close proximity and physical touch. An estimated 66 percent of licensees primarily practice as sole practitioners, further underscoring the need for strong consumer protection in cases involving sex offenses, serious felonies, or sexual misconduct.

Further, while the Board has found that the licensing reforms originally enacted by AB 2138 (Chiu, Chapter 995, Statutes of 2018), which were intended to reduce barriers to licensure for individuals with a criminal history, have been effective in streamlining the Board's background review process and providing opportunities for licensure, existing law prevents the Board from considering any formal discipline against an applicant that occurred more than seven years before the date of their application. As a result, without legislative action, applicants previously disciplined for acts of sexual abuse or misconduct can eventually qualify for licensure without any safeguards in place, such as a probationary license with appropriate conditions. This bill closes this consumer protection gap by allowing the Board to instead focus on the applicant's demonstration of rehabilitation, regardless of the age of the prior discipline, when determining their present fitness to practice chiropractic.

Importantly, the bill also authorizes the Board to establish, by regulation, a system for the issuance and renewal of a chiropractic facility permit. Shifting to a chiropractic facility permit and phasing out the use of satellite certificates would improve the accuracy and accessibility of information available to the public by enabling the Board to link each practice location with its business name and all associated licensees. It would also significantly ease the administrative burden on licensees and the Board by eliminating duplicative filings and reducing the overall number of secondary registrations by about 48 percent.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The 2026-27 Budget provides approximately \$5.19 million (State Board of Chiropractic Examiners Fund) and 18.4 positions to support the continued operation of the Board's licensing and enforcement activities
- 2) The Board estimates annual revenue increases of \$235,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27, and \$432,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing, resulting from the statutory minimum fee increase proposed by the bill. Any future changes to these fee amounts will require formal regulatory action. Additionally, the Board anticipates annual cost savings of \$20,000 in Attorney General costs due the proposed automatic license revocation authority.
- 3) The Office of Information Services estimates absorbable costs of approximately \$23,000 to complete necessary IT updates.

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: 14-0-1

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0-4

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, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta

UPDATED

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