
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 667
Author: Solache (D)
Amended: 8/29/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 8-1, 7/14/25
AYES: Ashby, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Menjivar, Smallwood-
Cuevas, Umberg
NOES: Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-1, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Professions and vocations: license examinations: interpreters

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires all non-healing arts programs within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to add a question to their applications for the applicant to identify their preferred written, spoken, and signed languages, effective July 1, 2026. This bill requires each impacted program to determine whether there is a substantial number of non-English-speaking applicants who require the services of an interpreter and report their determinations to the Legislature by January 1, 2027.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the DCA with various regulatory boards, bureaus, committees, and commissions within the DCA umbrella. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 100, 101)

- 2) Identifies 36 regulatory boards, bureaus, committees, committees, and commissions that comprise the DCA. (BPC § 101)
- 3) Specifies that “board” as used in the BPC refers to the board in which the administration of the provision is vested, and unless otherwise expressly provided, includes “bureau,” “commission,” “committee,” “department,” “division,” “examining committee,” “program,” and “agency.” (BPC § 22)
- 4) Provides that all boards within the DCA are established for the purpose of ensuring that those private businesses and professions deemed to engage in activities which have potential impact upon the public health, safety, and requires all boards to establish minimum qualifications and levels of competency and license persons desiring to engage in the occupations they regulate upon determining that such persons possess the requisite skills and qualifications necessary to provide safe and effective services to the public. (BPC § 101.6)
- 5) Establishes the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act that defines “substantial number of non-English-speaking people” as members of a group who do not speak English or who are unable to effectively communicate in English because it is not their native language, and who comprise 5 percent or more of the people served by a state agency. (GOV §§ 7290 et seq.)
- 6) Requires each state agency to conduct a language survey and develop and update an implementation plan that complies with the requirements of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act. Requires the survey to determine and provide information, as specified, including: the number and percentage of non-English-speaking people served by each statewide office broken down by native language; a list of materials that have been translated and languages into which they have been translated; and a detailed description of the agency’s procedures for identifying written materials that are required to be translated. (GOV § 7299.4(b))
- 7) Requires the language survey results and any additional information requested to be reported no later than October 1 or every even-numbered year in the form required by the Department of Human Resources (CalHR). (GOV § 7299.4(c))

This bill:

- 1) Requires every non-healing arts DCA board, by July 1, 2026, to include an additional section in a license application that asks an applicant to identify their preferred written, spoken, and signed languages.

- 2) Requires, beginning July 1, 2027, each impacted board to conduct an annual review of applicants' language preferences that are collected from license applications and determine whether there is a substantial number of non-English-speaking applicants who require the services of an interpreter. Defines interpreter as a person who is fluent in English and in the necessary second language and who can accurately speak, read, and readily interpret the necessary second language, or a person who can accurately sign and read sign language. Defines substantial number of non-English-speaking applicants as applicants who either do not speak English or who are unable to effectively communicate in English because it is not their native language, and who comprise 5 percent or more of the total number of applicants. Requires each impacted board to report their determinations to the Legislature by January 1, 2028.
- 3) Requires, beginning January 1, 2029 and annually thereafter, all impacted DCA boards to report language preference data collected from the license applications to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development and Assembly Committee on Business and Professions.
- 4) Sunsets the provisions of this bill on January 1, 2033.

Background

The DCA consists of 36 boards, bureaus, and other entities responsible for licensing, certifying, or otherwise regulating professionals in California. As of March 2023, there are over 3.4 million licensees overseen by programs under the DCA (including health professionals regulated by healing arts boards). Each licensing program has its own unique requirements, with the governing acts for each profession providing for various prerequisites within the application process, typically including specified education, training, and examination requirements.

The DCA includes 16 boards that license occupations that are not within the healing arts. A number of reports in recent years have called for reforms to California's licensure scheme, criticizing the state's regulation of occupations and professions as burdensome and complex. Barriers to entry have been subject to scrutiny to ensure they are appropriate to provide adequate consumer protection on a DCA-wide level and for individual boards and license types. These efforts have been made to increase access to these professions, particularly among underrepresented communities, such as immigrants and minorities and those who provide services in underserved communities. Specifically, steps have been taken by several boards to increase access to a state licensing boards for non-English

speakers, including translating examinations into languages other than English and allowing interpreters to be present during the examination.

This bill would require all non-healing arts boards within DCA to collect data regarding their applicants' preferred written, spoken and signed language and report that data to the Legislature on an annual basis through January 1, 2033.

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

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the bill will result in unknown fiscal impact to all non-healing arts boards under DCA to determine and report on whether there is a substantial number of non-English-speaking applicants who require the services of an interpreter. Actual costs to each board may depend on, among other things, the extent this workload may be absorbed within existing administrative activities. The Office of Information Services within the DCA reports costs of approximately \$358,000 to update application questions and develop a new report, which is not anticipated to be absorbable within existing resources.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

Advanced Consulting, LLC
Alliance for a Better Community
Amigos De Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment
APRIL Parker Foundation
Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Coalition
Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Collaborative
Bay Area Medical Academy
Ben Tzedek Legal Services
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Binational of Central California
Buen Vecino
Building Skills Partnership
CA Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Community Foundation
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Immigrant Policy Center
Canal Alliance
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
Central Valley Workers Center
Centro Community Hispanic Association (centro Cha Inc.)

Centro De Trabajadores Unidos
Children's Institute
Chinese for Affirmative Action
City Heights Community Development Corporation
Clean Carwash Worker Center
Democracy At Work Institute
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Education and Leadership Foundation
First Gen Empower
First Graduate
Foundation for California Community Colleges
Immigrants Rising
Inclusive Action for the City
Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods
Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation
Icon CDC
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service
International Rescue Committee
International Rescue Committee
LA Cocina
Language Access
Latino Community Foundtion
Lisc San Diego
Los Angeles Economic Equity Accelerator and Fellowship
Moreno Seeds Foundation
Multicultural Institute
National Immigration Law Center
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
O Community Doulas
On the Move
Orale: Organizing Rooted in Abolition Liberation and Empowerment
Orale: Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation, and Empowerment
Pars Equality Center
Pre-health Dreamers
Redf
Robinson HR & Benefits
San Diego Refugee Community Coalition
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley

Slavic Refugee and Immigrant Services Organization
 Small Business Majority
 Somali Family Service of San Diego
 South Asian Network
 Southern California College Attainment Network
 Survivors of Torture, International
 Todec Legal Center
 Trabajadores Unidos Workers United
 Unite-la
 United Taxi Workers of San Diego
 Up Valley Family Centers of Napa County
 Upvalley Family Centers of Napa County
 Upwardly Global
 Veggielution
 Vision Y Compromiso

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note generally that immigrants are integral to the economic success and growth of California's economy and language barriers should not need to be one of the barriers that prevents someone from seeking gainful employment. Supporters state AB 667 acknowledges the diverse linguistic landscape of our state and that the bill would promote inclusivity.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-1, 6/3/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio

NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Irwin, Sanchez

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. /
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