
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 742 (Elhawary) - Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves

Version: July 2, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 8 - 2, JUD. 11 - 1

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 742 requires each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to expedite the applications for applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of American slaves, once a certification process is established by the to-be created Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery (Bureau). AB 742 specifies its provisions are operative only upon enactment of Senate Bill 518 (Weber Pierson, 2025), which would establish the Bureau.

Fiscal Impact: The DCA's Office of Information Services (OIS) reports a one-time cost of approximately \$305,000 to update all 302 different types of online applications and to post all paper applications that have been updated with the determined language to their respective program (various special funds). OIS notes it may absorb the \$30,000 Americans with Disabilities Act remediation and web posting of updates; however will require one-time resources for the remaining \$275,000 to contract with a vendor to update all online forms.

The DCA notes that most of its programs anticipate absorbable costs related to expediting applications under the provisions of this bill, as many of its programs have processes in place to do so and would have minor costs to update these processes and forms. DCA notes one program reported the following fiscal impacts:

- The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology reports costs of approximately \$275,000 in the first year, and \$128,000 ongoing to develop and implement a process to expedite applications for specified applicants, which is not anticipated to be absorbable within existing resources (Barbering and Cosmetology Contingent Fund). BBC notes additional costs of approximately \$25,000 to promulgate regulations and update translations for its eight applications, which is anticipated to be absorbable.

Background: The DCA consists of 36 boards, bureaus, and other entities responsible for licensing, certifying, or otherwise regulating professionals in California, including 16 that issue licenses to healing arts professionals. As of March 2023, there were over 3.4 million active licensees who were issued a license by a program within DCA. Licensure is intended to protect consumers by ensuring applicants have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to engage in regulated activity without creating a negative impact on public health, safety, and welfare.

Proposed Law:

- Once the process to certify descendants of American slaves is implemented by the Bureau, requires each board under the DCA to expedite applications for applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of American slaves.
- Makes the operation of the provisions of this bill operative on the date the certification process for the descendants of American Slaves is implemented by the Bureau.
- Sunsets the provisions of this bill four years from the operative date, or until January 1, 2032, whichever is earlier.
- Makes the provisions of this bill operative only if SB 518 of the 2025-26 Regular Session is enacting establishing the Bureau.

Related Legislation: SB 518 (Weber Pierson, 2025) establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery within state government, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, and establishes the Bureau's duties, as specified. SB 518 is pending on the Suspense File in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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