

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1302 (Wahab) – As Amended July 1, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill extends, until January 1, 2031, the sunset date of the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). This bill also requires the BRN identify states where practice experience meets California's requirements, and makes numerous technical and other changes to the Nursing Practice Act.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Extends, until January 1, 2031, the operations of the BRN and its authority to appoint an executive officer.
- 2) Revises the requirement for the BRN to meet in northern and southern California to instead require the BRN to meet in locations that are geographically diverse.
- 3) Requires the BRN's criteria for inspecting schools of nursing be consistent with the 2020 Nursing Education Approved Guidelines established by the National Council of State Board of Nursing or its successor, as approved by the BRN.
- 4) Requires any clinical practice hours not required to be in direct patient care and are provided using simulation experience be based on best practices, as specified.
- 5) Deletes the requirement that licensure examinations be written and the authorization for the BRN to offer a supplemental oral or practical examination.
- 6) Combines the renewal and furnishing application for Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).
- 7) Replaces, in a declared state of emergency, as specified, percentage requirements for clinical experience with hourly requirements by nursing specialty areas.
- 8) Creates a remediation pathway for a candidate for director or assistant director of a college nursing education program who does not meet a requirement for the position.
- 9) Requires the BRN make a list of approved schools of nursing available on its website.

- 10) Requires the BRN, for purposes of transition to practice, (a) identify states where practice experience meets or exceeds California's requirements, (b) maintain and update a list of such states and establish a process for identifying changes to relevant laws in these states.
- 11) Allows an NP's transition to practice qualification be completed in another state identified by the BRN as having practice experience requirements that meet or exceed those of California, pursuant to item 10, above.
- 12) Repeals certain outdated references to fee floors.
- 13) Makes additional technical and clarifying changes.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs of approximately \$67.3 million to support the continued operation of the BRN's licensing and enforcement activities (BRN Fund).

Additional costs of \$218,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 and \$210,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing for one staff position to interpret scope-of-practice implications, compare transition-to-practice requirements to California standards, draft policy and guidance, validate vendor provided data, and both maintain Board specific historical analysis and a contract for a multi-state legislative tracking subscription service (BRN Fund).

Minor and absorbable costs to the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) Office of Information Services.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, "this bill is necessary to make changes to the BRN to improve oversight of the regulated professions under its jurisdiction."
- 2) **Background. Sunset Review.** 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 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 loses its statutory mandate. This bill is a "sunset" bill, intended to extend the repeal date of the BRN, as well as incorporate the recommendations from the sunset review oversight hearings.

BRN. The BRN is responsible for administering and enforcing the Nursing Practice Act, which establishes the BRN and provides the regulatory framework for the practice of nursing. The BRN licenses and regulates over 500,000 nurse-licensees in California. In addition to licensing registered nurses (RNs), the BRN issues certificates to advanced

practice registered nurses (APRNs), including NPs, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), CNMs, and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs).

The BRN is responsible for determining educational standards for all prelicensure nursing programs, approving such programs, approving continuing education providers, evaluating and licensing applicants, administering discipline, managing an intervention program for licensees with substance use disorders or mental illness, and providing stakeholder information and outreach. The BRN is a special fund agency that obtains its revenues from licensing, renewal and other fees.

- 3) **Oppose Unless Amended.** In reference to an earlier version of this bill, the California Medical Association (CMA) wrote, in part:

California established a phased transition process intended to ensure that practitioners seeking expanded authority gain experience within the state's health care delivery system, regulatory environment, patient safety standards, prescribing requirements, and referral networks. Allowing out-of-state experience to automatically satisfy these requirements undermines the purpose of that transition.

...Nurse practitioner scope-of-practice laws vary significantly across the country. Clinical experience accumulated under a different regulatory structure may not adequately prepare a practitioner for California's requirements, standards of care, or patient population. A California-specific transition period remains important to ensure consistency and accountability.

This bill lacks a sufficient clinical experience verification mechanism. An individual nurse practitioner attesting to completion of the transition period is not required to verify competence, clinical expertise, or other professional standards and is only attesting that the required three years of experience was completed. Time in practice alone should not be viewed as a substitute for meaningful evaluation of clinical competency.

Due to the concerns listed above we respectfully request amendments to remove the provision which would allow nurse practitioners to use practice experience completed outside California to count toward the transition-to-practice requirement in California.

The California Society of Anesthesiologists shares CMA's request.

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