
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1368 (Wahab) - Speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dispensers

Version: April 15, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 10 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: SB 1368 is the sunset bill for the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board and is intended to make changes recommended during the joint sunset review of the board.

Fiscal Impact:

- The 2026-27 Governor's Budget provides approximately \$3.16 million (Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Fund) and 14.6 positions to support the continued operation of the board's licensing and enforcement activities.
- The board anticipates costs to create and implement the retired license category to be minor and absorbable due to the small size of the impacted license population.
- The Office of Information Services within the Department of Consumer Affairs anticipates absorbable costs of approximately \$16,000 to perform various IT activities.

Background: In March 2026, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of 10 regulatory entities, including the board. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year.

Proposed Law:

- Extends the Board operations to January 1, 2031.
- Provides the Board with statutory authority to establish a retired license category.
- Makes statutory clarifications to enhance Board oversight of continuing education providers and continuing professional development providers.
- Makes technical changes that improve the Board operations and the enforcement of the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers Licensure Act.

Related Legislation: SB 1302 (Wahab, 2026) is the Board of Registered Nursing sunset bill. SB 1302 is pending in this committee.

SB 1303 (Wahab, 2026) is the California Board of Naturopathic Medicine sunset bill. SB 1303 is pending in this committee.

SB 1304 (Wahab, 2026) is the Board of Respiratory Care sunset bill. SB 1304 is pending in this committee.

SB 1363 (Wahab, 2026) is the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology sunset bill. SB 1363 is pending in this committee.

AB 2771 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education sunset bill. AB 2771 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2772 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the California Council for Interior Design Certification sunset bill. AB 2772 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2773 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the California Board of Occupational Therapy sunset bill. AB 2773 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2774 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the Physical Therapy Board of California sunset bill. AB 2774 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2775 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners sunset bill. AB 2775 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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