

responsible for oversight of the PA professions. SB 1236 (Price, Chapter 332, Statutes of 2012, established a stand-alone PAB. While many of the Committee's regulatory activities were handled by the new PAB, it did maintain a shared services agreement with the MBC for a portion of the PAB's enforcement work until the prior sunset review oversight of PAB transitioned the Board away from shared services, relying on its own internal programs.

PAs make clinical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventative and health maintenance services. Examples of services offered by a PA include ordering x-rays and laboratory tests, performing diagnoses, administering immunizations, providing referrals within the healthcare system, performing minor surgery, and acting as first or second assistants during surgery. PAs are medical professionals that work under the supervision of licensed physicians. In California, physicians may supervise up to four PAs at a time, except for in limited home healthcare settings, in which a physician may supervise up to eight PAs. PAs can make any clinical decision or render any healthcare service that a physician can, subject to the constraints of a written practice agreement between the PA and their supervising physician.

The PAB's primary responsibility is protecting consumers by reviewing license applicants to ensure they meet licensure requirements, expeditiously investigating and coordinating disciplinary matters, and managing a diversion and monitoring program for PAs who have alcohol or substance abuse issues. The PAB currently oversees a license population of over 18,000 PAs in the state.

PAB is an independent entity; the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs does not approve when any other independent boards, comprised of members appointed by the Legislature and Governor, are able to meet. SB 1376 deletes this obsolete requirement and further recognizes PAB's role as a standalone regulatory board.

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION:

Support:

None received

Opposition:

None received

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