

Date of Hearing: June 30, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

Marc Berman, Chair

SB 1376 (Wahab) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** Physician assistants

**SUMMARY:** Deletes requirements related to Department of Consumer Affairs approval of Physician Assistant Board (PAB) meetings.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Regulates physician assistant practice under the Physician Assistant Practice Act. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 3500–3545)
- 2) Establishes the PAB within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), until January 1, 2030, to administer and enforce the Physician Assistant Practice Act. (BPC §§ 101(af), 3504)
- 3) Authorizes the PAB to convene as it determines is necessary. (BPC § 3508(a))
- 4) Requires the PAB to provide notice at least two weeks in advance of each board meeting to those persons and organizations who express an interest in receiving notification. (BPC § 3508(b))
- 5) Requires the PAB to ask the DCA for permission to meet more than six times annually but requires the DCA to approve the meetings that are necessary for the PAB to fulfill its legal responsibilities. (BPC § 3508(c))

**THIS BILL:**

- 1) Deletes the requirement that the PAB ask the DCA for permission to meet more than six times per year.
- 2) Deletes the requirement that the DCA approve the meetings that are necessary for the PAB to fulfill its legal responsibilities.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, no significant state costs anticipated.

**COMMENTS:**

**Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the author. According to the author, According to the author:

[The] PAB is an independent entity; the Director of DCA does not approve when any other independent boards, comprised of members appointed by the

Legislature and Governor, are able to meet. [This bill] deletes this obsolete requirement and further recognizes PAB's role as a standalone regulatory board.

**Background.** The PAB is a licensing entity within the DCA and is responsible for administering and enforcing the Physician Assistant Practice Act. 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 is comprised of nine voting members, five PAs and four members of the public, and one non-voting physician and surgeon provides updates to the Medical Board of California. All five professional members are appointed by the Governor, as are two of the public members. The Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint one public member.

The PAB meets approximately four times a year and PAB members receive a \$100-a-day per diem. All of the PAB's board meetings are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the DCA has no direct role in the PAB meetings other than to provide administrative support services and a department liaison.

*PAs.* Physician assistants (PAs) are medical professionals that work under the supervision of licensed physicians. In California, physicians may supervise up to eight PAs at a time, with exceptions for emergencies. 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.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT:**

There is no support on file.

**REGISTERED OPPOSITION:**

There is no opposition on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Vincent Chee / B. & P. / (916) 319-3301