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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular

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**Bill No:** SB 1445 **Hearing Date:** April 20, 2026  
**Author:** Business, Professions and Economic Development  
**Version:** March 17, 2026  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Elissa Silva

**Subject:** Healing arts.

**SUMMARY:** Makes numerous technical and clarifying statutory updates related to programs within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), and updates the information required from an individual who signs a fictitious business name statement, as specified.

**Existing law:**

- 1) Establishes, until January 1, 2026, the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to administer the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) Act, the Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP) Practice Act, the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) Practice Act, and the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) Act. (Business & Professions Code (BPC) § 4990)
- 2) Requires for purposes of gaining experience for licensure as a LMFT, LPCC, or LCSW, within 60 days of the commencement of supervision, a supervisor shall conduct a meeting with the supervisee during which the supervisor shall assess the appropriateness of allowing the supervisee to receive supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing, as specified, and the supervisor must document the results of the assessment, and not utilize supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing if their assessment finds it is not appropriate. (BPC §§ 4980.43.2, 4996.23.1, 4999.46.2)
- 3) Requires a coroner to file a report with the Medical Board of California (MBC), the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC), the Podiatric Medical Board of California (PBC), or the Physician Assistant Board of California (PAB), when they receive information that is based on the findings reached by a board-certified or board-eligible pathologist indicating that a death may be the result of a physician and surgeon, podiatrist, or physician assistant's gross negligence or incompetence, as specified. (BPC § 802.5)
- 4) Establishes the Dental Board of California (DBC) to license and regulate dentists; registered dental assistants and registered dental assistants in extended functions (BPC § 1601.1).
- 5) Requires the Director of the DCA to furnish one copy of the licensing law and rules and regulations to any applicant or licensee (locksmith, reposessor, private investigator, private security service, alarm company) without charge, and

additionally requires the director to charge and collect a fee equivalent to the cost of producing such laws, rules and regulations, manuals, or guides, plus sales tax for each additional copy which may be furnished on request to any applicant or licensee, and for each copy furnished on request to any other person, as specified. (BPC §§ 6980.82, 7511, 7519, 7581.5, 7599.71)

- 6) Establishes the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) to implement and enforce the License Law, which includes the licensing and regulation of contractors and home improvement salespersons. (BPC) § 7000 et seq.)
- 7) Requires the CSLB to establish the Construction Management Education Account Advisory Committee to recommend grant awards, consisting of 11 members, with at least one representative from each of the following: Associated General Contractors of California, Associated Builders and Contractors, California Building Industry Association, National Electrical Contractors Association, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractor's Association, Southern California Contractor's Association, Associated General Contractors of San Diego, Engineering and Utility Contractors Association, Engineering Contractors Association, California Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor's Association, and one member representing the California State University and University of California construction management programs accredited by the American Council for Construction Education. (BPC § 7139.3)
- 8) Requires a qualified manager certificate (for private security services) to be prominently displayed below the branch office license at the principal place of business, and if the principal place of business is outside of this state, then the certificate of the qualified manager must be posted below the branch office certificate at each branch office. (BPC § 7582.22)
- 9) Provides for the regulation of automotive repair under the Automotive Repair Act, which outlines the licensure requirements, scope of practice, and responsibilities of individuals who, for compensation, engage in the business of repairing or diagnosing malfunctions of motor vehicles. (BPC §§ 9880 et seq.)
- 10) Requires a registrant signature on a fictitious business name statement to declare that all the information in the fictitious business name statement is true and correct, and a registrant who declares the information is true and the registrant knows it to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor, as specified. (BPC § 17913(c))

**This bill:**

- 1) Requires a county medical examiner, in addition to a county coroner, to provide a report to the MBC, the OMBC, the PMBC, or the PAB when a death may be the result of gross negligence or incompetence of a respective licensee of that regulatory entity.
- 2) Repeals outdated references to a portfolio examination that is no longer offered by the DBC.

- 3) Reduces the application and registration fee by \$150 and the renewal fee by \$100 for a nonresident ophthalmic lens dispenser applicant.
- 4) Clarifies the requirement for supervision assessment via two-way video conferencing is only necessary when supervision is conducted via two-way real time video conferencing for gaining experience, as specified, for LPCC, LMFT and LCSW.
- 5) Repeals the requirement for the director of the DCA to furnish one copy of the licensing laws and rules and regulations to any applicant or licensee without charge, and the requirement to charge a fee equivalent to the cost of producing such laws, rules, and regulations, manuals, or guides plus sales tax for any additional copy requested.
- 6) Deletes an outdated statutory requirement for the CSLB to conduct a study of judgments, arbitration awards, and settlements that were the result of claims for construction defects for rental residential units and submit the results to the Legislature, as specified.
- 7) Reduces the number of members on the Construction Management Education Account Advisory Committee from 11 to 10 and updates references to two previously separate entities, Engineering and Utility Contractors Association and the Engineering Contractors Association which is now a single entity, *the Engineering and Utility Contractors Association d.b.a. United Contractors*.
- 8) Requires the registrant who signs a fictitious business name statement to include the signer's printed name and the title which authorizes them to sign the statement.
- 9) Makes numerous additional technical, conforming, and clarifying changes.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown. This bill is keyed fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

1. **Purpose.** This bill is the annual "committee bill" authored by Members of the Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee, which is intended to consolidate a number of non-controversial provisions related to various regulatory programs and professions governed by the BPC. Consolidating the provisions in one bill aims to relieve the various licensing boards, bureaus, professions, and other regulatory agencies from the necessity and burden of having separate measures for a number of non-controversial revisions. Many of the provisions of this bill are minor, technical, and updating changes.

2. **Background.**

*Dental Board of California (DBC).* The DBC is responsible for the licensure and regulation of dentists and dental assistants. SB 1443 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024) eliminated the *Licensure by Portfolio* pathway for applicants for licensure as a dentist. This bill removes outdated references to the licensure by portfolio pathway which is no longer available.

*Reporting Requirements to the Medical Board of California (MBC).* Current law requires a coroner to report to the MBC, the PMBC, the OMBC, or the PAB when they receive information from a board-certified or board-eligible pathologist, that a death may be the result of a specified licensee's gross negligence or incompetence. Because not every county utilizes the services of a "coroner", this bill includes a "county medical examiner" to make the required reports when they receive information that a death may be the result of a licensee, to the appropriate regulatory board.

*Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS).* In 2022, the BBS sponsored, AB 1758 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 204, Statutes of 2022), which permitted supervision to take place via videoconferencing in all settings, not just in exempt settings. Previously, supervision had only been permitted via videoconferencing for supervisees in exempt settings such as a government entity, school, college, university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable. AB 1758 required the supervisor to conduct an assessment of each supervisee within 60 days in order to determine the appropriateness of the supervisee for supervision via videoconferencing. Supervision via videoconferencing must not be utilized if the supervisor determines it is not appropriate. This bill updates current law to clarify that the assessment for the appropriateness of video-conferencing supervision is only necessary if the supervision is conducted via videoconferencing.

*Contractors State License Board (CSLB).* The CSLB is responsible for the licensure and regulation of the contracting profession along with the registration of home improvement salespersons. SB 465 (Hill, Chapter 485, Statutes of 2016) required the CSLB to consult with licensees, consumers, and other interested stakeholders in order to prepare a study of judgments, arbitration awards, and settlements that were the result of claims for construction defects for rental residential units and, report to the Legislature by January 1, 2018. This bill deletes an obsolete reference to that study as the CSLB has conducted and submitted the results of that study. The CSLB is required to establish an advisory committee whose purpose is to recommend grant awards for qualified public postsecondary education institutions to support accredited construction management programs and facilities in California colleges and universities. There are currently 11 members on the committee. However, two of the association members have merged into one organization. As a result, this bill reduces the committee membership to 10 and reflects the new name of the merged association.

*Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS).* The BSIS is responsible for the licensing and regulation of locksmiths, repossessioners, private investigators, proprietary security, private security, and alarm company industries. Under current law, a private patrol operator must always post their license in the principal place of business. In addition, current law requires a licensee whose principal place of business is located in another state, to maintain a branch office license in California. BPC § 7582.22 requires a qualified manager certificate to be posted below a branch office license. However, many qualified managers operate in a sole office where a branch office license is not necessary. This bill revises current law to clarify that a qualified manager license is to be posted below the private patrol operator's license, which is required to be posted in any principal place of business, including a branch

office. Existing law requires the BSIS to furnish copies of licensing laws, rules, and regulations to its licensing population. That material is now available on the BSIS's website. This bill removes the unnecessary requirement to furnish hard copies of the rules, regulations, and laws.

*Bureau of Household Goods and Services (BHGS)*. BHGS is responsible for the oversight and regulation of the Electronic and Appliance Repair Law, the Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Act, and the Household Movers Act. SB 814 (Roth, Chapter 508, Statutes of 2023) removed a requirement for the BHGS to issue a permit for household mover applicants who could demonstrate they had knowledge, ability, integrity, and sufficient financial resources to perform their respective services. At the time, the BHGS noted that it had lacked the capability to determine what constitutes sufficient financial resources, as that criterion could vary greatly amongst applicants. This bill deletes another reference to that provision that was inadvertently left in statute. SB 814 additionally amended the definition of "person" and replaced references to copartnership with partnership. This bill replaces additional outdated references to copartnership and replaces them with the correct term, "partnership".

*Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR)*. BAR was established within the DCA in 1972 following the enactment of the Automotive Repair Act. The Automotive Repair Act authorized the BAR to regulate the automotive repair industry in California and mandated, among other things, that automotive repair dealers be registered by the BAR and subject to specific requirements such as providing customers with written estimates that must be authorized by the customer prior to performing any work on the vehicle and invoices for the repairs performed. This bill updates current law to clarify that written estimates may be delivered electronically, as well.

*Board of Optometry (BOO)*. The BOO is responsible for the licensure and regulation of optometrists, registered dispensing opticians, contact lens dispensers, spectacle lens dispensers, non-resident contact lens dispensers and the registration of Mobile Optometric Offices. SB 776 (Ashby, Chapter 788, Statutes of 2025) combined the registration and application fee for non-resident ophthalmic lens dispenser and increased the statutory minimum and maximum fee for that registration. Prior to the implementation of SB 776, the application fee was set at \$150 not to exceed \$200, and the initial registration fee was set at \$200 not to exceed \$300. SB 776 aimed to merge the application and initial registration fee into one single application and fee. However, when the fees were combined, the established fee floors were inadvertently increased. This bill revises the initial registration fee to be set at \$350 (which is the total combined application and registration fee charged prior to SB 776) and reduces the renewal fee to \$200.

## **SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION:**

### Support:

None received

### Opposition:

None received

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