

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 775 (Ashby) – As Amended July 2, 2025

Policy Committee: Business and Professions

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill extends the operations of the California Board of Psychology (BOP) and the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to January 1, 2030, and makes additional technical changes, statutory improvements, and policy reforms in response to issues raised during the boards' sunset review oversight process.

Specifically, in addition to numerous technical, clarifying, and other changes, this bill:

- 1) Extends the sunset dates for both BOP and BBS by four years, from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030.
- 2) Requires an applicant for registration with BOP as a research psychoanalyst to pay a fingerprint processing fee of \$49, and an out-of-state applicant who cannot use California's Live Scan system for registration as a research psychoanalyst to pay a fingerprint hard card processing fee of \$184.
- 3) Reinstates a \$25 fee to add or change a supervisor for a psychological testing technician.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) **BOP.** Ongoing costs of approximately \$8.8 million annually for the continued operation of BOP's licensing and enforcement activities through January 1, 2030 (Psychology Fund). BOP anticipates minor and absorbable workload costs to implement the additional provisions of this bill. BOP notes reinstatement of the \$25 change-of-supervisor fee for Psychological Testing Technicians provides minor revenue, and the \$184 fingerprint hard card processing fee for out-of-state applicants who cannot use California's Live Scan system, allows BOP to absorb administrative costs.
- 2) **BBS.** Ongoing costs of approximately \$15.7 million annually for the continued operation of BBS' licensing and enforcement activities through January 1, 2030 (Behavioral Science Examiners Fund, Professions and Vocations Fund). BBS anticipates minor and absorbable workload costs to implement the additional provisions of the bill.

In addition, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Information Services (OIS) estimates absorbable costs of \$26,000 to add two new fee codes for BOP and add two new business rules and update self-attestation language on various application types for BBS.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** Each year, the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development (collectively, committees) hold joint sunset review oversight hearings to review the licensing boards under the DCA. The DCA boards are responsible for protecting consumers and the public and regulating the professionals they license. Each board subject to review has an enacting statute with a repeal date and each board's authority must be extended by the Legislature before the repeal date; otherwise the board will lose its statutory mandate. This bill extends the repeal date for the BOP and the BBS. The sunset review process provides an opportunity for the Legislature, DCA, boards, and stakeholders to discuss the boards' performance and make recommendations for improvements.
- 2) **Background. BOP.** BOP regulates psychologists, psychological associates, psychological testing technicians, research psychoanalysts, and student research psychoanalysts. BOP is responsible for the following: establishing pathways to licensure and registration; ensuring that licensees and registrants maintain competency; advocating for and implementing statutory and regulatory changes to further the BOP's consumer protection mission while maintaining access to psychological services; investigating complaints against licensees and registrants and taking disciplinary action where appropriate; and educating consumers, licensees, registrants, students, and other stakeholders about the practice of psychology and associated services and the laws that govern them.

BBS. BBS licenses and regulates Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs), and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs). Additionally, the BBS registers Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs), Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs). BBS is responsible for the regulatory oversight of over 148,000 licensees and registrants. Each profession has its own scope of practice, entry-level requirements, and professional settings with some overlap in areas.

Issues Raised During Sunset Review. In preparation for sunset review oversight hearings earlier this year, committee staff prepared background papers that identify outstanding issues for each entity being reviewed. For BOP, sunset issues include qualifications for registered psychological associates, change-of-supervisor fee for psychological testing technicians, allowable degrees for psychological testing technician registration, oversight of research psychoanalysts and student research psychoanalysts (transferred from the Medical Board of California), and the temporary practice allowance for psychologists licensed in another state or Canada. For BBS, sunset issues include LMFT national exam, video supervision sunset, and a temporary practice allowance for practitioners licensed in another state.