
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 775
Author: Ashby (D)
Amended: 9/3/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/28/25
AYES: Ashby, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 6/4/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear,
Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar,
Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-
Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 9/12/5 – Roll call available

SUBJECT: Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill is the sunset bill for the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) and Board of Psychology (BOP) which makes various changes to the regulation of BBS and BOP licensees and registrants stemming from the joint sunset review oversight programs.

Assembly Amendments clarify the requirements for a qualifying degree for psychological associates, including those holding foreign master's degrees or doctoral candidates; requires research psychoanalysts and student research

psychoanalysts to complete various education and training and pay a finger print processing fee of \$49, with out-of-state applicants paying a fingerprint processing fee of \$184; clarifies that current authorization for a person who is licensed as a psychologist in another state, U.S. territory, or Canada to offer psychological services in California is limited to 30 consecutive days, if specified conditions are met and sunsets this temporary practice authorization on January 1, 2030; clarifies BOP petitioner requirements for reinstatement of a license or registration; enumerates conditions for licensure or registration suspension; enumerates allowable information to be posted on the BOP website of all current and former licensees and registrants; requires the BOP to report license revocation to the National Practitioner Data Bank in lieu of all other state licensing boards; makes various clarifying and technical changes and includes language to address a chaptering conflict with SB 861.

ANALYSIS:

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 Workers (LCSW) Practice Act, and the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) Act. (Business & Professions Code (BPC) § 4990.12
- 2) Establishes, until January 1, 2026, the Board of Psychology responsible for the licensing and enforcement of the psychology profession in California (BPC § 2920 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Requires research psychoanalysts and student research psychoanalysts to complete various education and training.
- 2) Clarifies that the current authorization for a person who is licensed as a psychologist in another state, U.S. territory, or Canada to offer psychological services in California is limited to 30 consecutive days, if specified conditions are met (emphasis added to distinguish from existing law), and sunset this authorization on January 1, 2030.
- 3) Reinstates a \$25 fee to add or change a supervisor for a psychological testing technician.

- 4) Expands the allowable degrees for registration as a psychological testing technician to include neuroscience, cognitive science, or behavioral science, and give the BOP the final determination as to whether a degree or degree program qualifies.
- 5) Extends to January 1, 2030, existing authorization for a person who holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a marriage and family therapist, professional clinical counselor, or clinical social worker, to provide professional services in California for 30 consecutive days, if they submit a signed statement, under penalty of perjury, acknowledging that they are subject to the jurisdiction of the BBS and agreeing to be bound by the laws of this state.
- 6) Authorize the BBS to require a registrant or applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist to pass a clinical examination administered by the BBS or by a public or private organization, as specified by the BBS in regulations.
- 7) Repeals the sunset date on provisions allowing supervision of marriage and family therapist trainees and associates, clinical social work associates, and professional clinical counselor trainees and associates via videoconferencing in all settings, not just in exempt settings.
- 8) Enumerates eligibility requirements for a retired license issued by the BBS.
- 9) Clarifies and enumerates new requirements for an educational psychologist license.
- 10) Extends the sunset date for the BOP and BBS to January 1, 2030.

Background

Oversight Hearings and Sunset Review of Licensing Boards and Programs. In March 2025, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of ten regulatory entities including BBS and BOP. 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.

Background on BBS. BBS licenses and regulates LCSWs, LMFTs, LEPs, and LPCCs. Additionally, the Board registers Associate Clinical Social Workers

(ASWs), Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs).

The Board 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. LMFTs are employed in mental health agencies, counseling centers, and private practice. LMFTs utilize counseling or therapeutic techniques to assist individuals, couples, families, and groups with a focus on marriage, family, and relationship issues. AMFTs have completed the required educational program and are in the process of obtaining the hours of supervisory experience required for licensure. LCSWs are employed in health facilities, private practice, and state and county mental health agencies. LCSWs utilize counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques to assist individuals, couples, families, and groups. ASWs have completed the required educational program and are in the process of obtaining the hours of supervisory experience required for licensure. LEPs work in schools or in private practice and provide educational counseling services such as aptitude and achievement testing or psychological testing. LEPs may not provide psychological testing or counseling services that are unrelated to academic learning processes in the education system. LPCCs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, private practice, and community-based mental health organizations. They apply counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques to identify and remediate cognitive, mental, and emotional issues, including personal growth, adjustment to disability, crisis intervention, and psychosocial and environmental problems. LPCCs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, private practice, and community-based mental health organizations. APCCs have completed the required educational program and are in the process of obtaining the hours of supervisory experience required for licensure.

Background on BOP. The California Board of Psychology regulates psychologists, registered psychological associates, psychological testing technicians, and student research psychoanalysts. Psychological associates perform psychological functions under the primary supervision of a qualified licensed psychologists. Research psychoanalysts and student research psychoanalysts engage in psychoanalysis as an adjunct to teaching, training, or research and will receive primary supervision from a qualified professional.

Psychologists diagnose and engage in non-pharmacological treatment and prevention. Psychological associates accrue supervised professional experience necessary for licensure as a psychologist. They may perform all of the functions of a psychologist under the supervision of a licensed psychologist with the exception

of accepting payment directly from clients. Psychological testing technicians administer and score standardized psychological tests and observe and describe clients' test behavior and test responses under the supervision of licensed psychologists. Psychological testing technicians are prohibited from selecting tests or versions of tests, interpreting test results, writing test reports, or providing feedback to clients. Research psychoanalysts engage in clinical psychoanalysis as adjuncts to their academic teaching, research or training duties. Psychoanalysis is a specialty in psychology utilizing a vast body of knowledge and intensive treatment approaches such as, promoting awareness of unconscious, maladaptive and habitually recurrent patterns of emotion and behavior patterns. Psychoanalytical training requires four to eight years of advanced study after completion of a doctoral degree in psychology and further specialized training at a psychoanalytic institute, postdoctoral university program or an equivalent program approved by the American Board and Academy of Psychoanalysis Student. Student research psychoanalysts have the same scope of practice as research psychoanalysts but are required to be under the supervision of a research psychoanalysts with at least five years of postgraduate clinical experience in psychoanalysis.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill has ongoing costs of approximately \$8.8 million annually for the continued operation of BOP's licensing and enforcement activities and ongoing costs of approximately \$15.7 million annually for the continued operation of BBS' licensing and enforcement activities through January 1, 2030. The BOP and BBS anticipate minor and absorbable workload costs to implement the additional provisions of this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/9/25)

Board of Behavioral Sciences
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
California Association of School Psychologists
California Psychological Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/9/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists notes, "CAMFT is particularly supportive of the added provision that would allow the BBS, through regulation, to adopt the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards' (AMFTRB) Marital and Family Therapy

National Examination as the clinical examination for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) licensure in California. CAMFT believes that transitioning to the AMFTRB national exam will align California with national standards, eliminate inconsistencies, continue to uphold consumer protection for clients, and put California MFTs in the best position to succeed. For these reasons, we are proud to support SB 775.

California Association of School Psychologists states, “SB 775 provides essential support and clarity by establishing much needed standards for experience requirements of LEPs and the issuance and renewal of LEP licensees for In-State and Out-of-State applicants. CASP appreciates the work of the staff at the BBS and the legislative staff as this measure moves through the sunset review process.

California Psychological Association notes in support, “The California Psychological Association (CPA), a non-profit association of licensed psychologists, is pleased to support SB 775 (Ashby), which would extend the Board of Psychology’s sunset date until January 1, 2030, refines the temporary practice allowance for out-of-state psychologists, and makes other clarifying changes to the Board’s enforcement provisions to align with regulatory practices. CPA is particularly supportive of the inclusion of language expanding the degrees to qualify as a psychological testing technician to include individuals with bachelor’s degrees in neuroscience, cognitive science, behavioral science, and makes other clarifying changes. These important changes will improve access to psychological testing services, important for individuals with autism, Alzheimer’s disease, and other conditions. We are grateful to the Legislature for including this language and the support of the Board of Psychology.

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /
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