

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 849 (Weber Pierson) – As Amended June 24, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions

Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits the Medical Board of California (MBC) and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) from reinstating the certificate of a person whose certificate was surrendered while the MBC or OMBC accusation of sexual abuse or misconduct, as specified, against the person's license was pending.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No costs to the MBC or the OMBC.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

The physician-patient relationship involves significant vulnerability and relies on ethical judgment and integrity. When serious misconduct occurs, it calls into question a physician's ability to safely care for patients. This legislation responds by clarifying physician standards to ensure that those entrusted with patient care must continuously meet the responsibility that comes with that role.

2) **Background.** Statute requires the MBC and OMBC automatically suspend a physician's license after a conviction of specified felonies, including sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient. Once the conviction is final, the boards are required to automatically revoke the license. The MBC and OMBC must also automatically revoke the license of any licensee who is required to register as a sex offender, regardless of whether the related conviction has been appealed, except if the registration resulted from a misdemeanor for indecent exposure. A physician subjected to automatic revocation may request a hearing within 30 days of the revocation. If the relevant conviction is overturned on appeal, the ordered revocation automatically ceases.

In response to a 2021 investigative report in the Los Angeles Times titled "These doctors sexually abused patients. The Medical Board gave them their licenses back" and subsequent reporting, the California Medical Association sponsored AB 1636 (Weber), Chapter 453, Statutes of 2022, to establish the current prohibition against reinstating a license revoked for specified acts of sexual misconduct with patients or sexual exploitation. This bill slightly modifies the prohibition on the MBC or OMBC reinstating a license by essentially replacing

“surrendered because the person committed an act of sexual abuse...” to “surrendered while a board accusation was pending against their license that alleges the person committed an act of sexual abuse...”

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