

SENATE THIRD READING

SB 861 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development)

As Amended September 9, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Makes numerous technical and clarifying changes to provisions of existing law relating to various licensing programs under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC).

Major Provisions

- 1) Updates various outdated references to boards or bureaus within the DCA that have been renamed since those statutes were enacted and
- 2) Adds corresponding references to recently established license categories.
- 3) Makes conforming changes to statutes relating to the composition of board memberships that were recently restructured.
- 4) Corrects erroneous cross-references and typographical errors.
- 5) Repeals unnecessary language referring to previous statutory deadlines.
- 6) Eliminates the use of gendered pronouns.
- 7) Makes various additional technical and noncontroversial changes to enhance or clarify existing law providing for the licensing and oversight of various professions and entities.

COMMENTS

Department of Consumer Affairs. The DCA consists of 36 distinct regulatory entities, including 26 boards, seven bureaus, one committee, one commission, and one program. In total, the DCA oversees more than 3.4 million licensees across 280 license types falling within the respective jurisdiction of each board, bureau, or other licensing entity. These license types range from physicians licensed by the Medical Board of California to hairstylists licensed by the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

This bill makes various changes to acts administered and enforced by boards and bureaus under the DCA. For example, this bill would update references to entities that have recently been renamed, conform various laws to recognize membership composition changes to boards, and make additional technical changes to clarify or streamline existing law. Many of these changes were recommended by the DCA or a specific program within the DCA. Additional changes to the Education Code relate to the licensing program administered by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education within the DCA.

Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The CDFA oversees the Division of Measurement Standards, which is responsible for ensuring equity in the marketplace through the regulation and enforcement of weights and measures standards, which includes overseeing the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices. The CDFA works in coordination

with county sealers of weights and measures to conduct inspections, testing, and certification of these devices. Various provisions of law reference the National Conference on Weights and Measures. However, in July 2024, this entity voted to change its name to the National Council on Weights and Measures. This bill would correspondingly update references in current law to reflect this organization's name change.

Department of Cannabis Control. The Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), first enacted in 2015, established a comprehensive statewide licensing and regulatory framework for the cultivation, manufacture, transportation, testing, distribution, and sale of medicinal cannabis to be administered by a newly established Bureau of Cannabis Control within the DCA; the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and the CDFA, with implementation relying on each agency's area of expertise. Not long after the Legislature enacted MCRSA, California voters passed Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), which made use of the regulatory framework and authorities set out by MCRSA. The two systems were subsequently reconciled in 2017 through MAUCRSA.

In January 2019, the state's three cannabis licensing authorities announced the approval of the state's final cannabis regulations promulgated by the three agencies respectively. In early 2021, the Department of Finance released trailer bill language to create the DCC, with centralized authority for cannabis licensing and enforcement activities. This new department was created through a consolidation of the three prior licensing authorities' cannabis programs. As of July 1, 2021, the DCC has been the single entity responsible for administering and enforcing the majority of MAUCRSA. New regulations went into effect on January 1, 2023 to effectuate the organizational consolidation and make other changes to cannabis regulation.

This bill contains several technical and noncontroversial changes to MAUCRSA and provisions relating to the DCC. Specifically, this bill would update cross-references in statutes providing for license application requirements, clarify that track-and-trace is an *electronic system* rather than a *database*, and make other minor changes. None of the changes proposed by this bill are controversial or meaningfully substantive.

According to the Author

"This bill is the annual 'committee bill' authored by the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development, which is intended to consolidate a number of noncontroversial provisions related to various regulatory programs and professions governed by the Business and Professions Code. 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."

Arguments in Support

The *Dental Hygiene Board of California* (DHBC) supports this bill, writing that "the bill would make technical changes to the provisions regulating dental hygienists by, among other things, correcting references to the DHBC and deleting an obsolete provision affecting the expiration of terms for members of the former Dental Hygiene Committee of California. The Board thanks you for this legislation to continue to allow the DHBC to conduct business as intended by its formation."

Arguments in Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, negligible costs to boards and bureaus within the DCA and one-time costs of \$2,000 to the DCA's Office of Information Services.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 36-0-4**

YES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, 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
ABS, ABST OR NV: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Dahle, Reyes

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 17-0-1

YES: Berman, Flora, Ahrens, Alanis, Bains, Caloza, Chen, Elhawary, Hadwick, Haney, Irwin, Jackson, Krell, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pellerin
ABS, ABST OR NV: Bauer-Kahan

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Solache, Ta, Tangipa
ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Pellerin

UPDATED

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