

***SB 1575 (Price) – Professions and Vocations***

***Introduced March 12, 2012, Chaptered September 29, 2012***

This bill makes several non-controversial minor, non-substantive or technical changes to various provisions pertaining to the health-related regulatory Boards of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

This bill makes technical changes to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2904.5 pertaining to telehealth services.

The entire bill is not included in this package, only portions that reference amendments relevant to the Board which are included in BPC section 2904.5.

**Senate Bill No. 1575**

**CHAPTER 799**

An act to amend Sections 1640, 1715.5, 1934, 1950.5, 2021, 2064, 2184, 2220, 2424, 2516, 2518, 2570.13, 2904.5, 3057.5, 3742, 3750, 3750.5, 4209, 4980.04, 4980.34, 4980.397, 4980.398, 4980.399, 4980.40, 4980.43, 4980.44, 4980.48, 4980.50, 4980.78, 4980.80, 4984.01, 4984.4, 4984.7, 4984.72, 4989.16, 4989.42, 4992.05, 4992.07, 4992.09, 4992.1, 4996.1, 4996.3, 4996.4, 4996.6, 4996.28, 4999.22, 4999.32, 4999.45, 4999.46, 4999.50, 4999.52, 4999.53, 4999.55, 4999.57, 4999.58, 4999.59, 4999.62, 4999.63, 4999.64, 4999.76, 4999.90, 4999.100, 4999.106, and 4999.120 of, to add Sections 719, 1902.2, 1958.1, and 4300.1 to, and to repeal Section 1909.5 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2012. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 29, 2012.]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1575, Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. Professions and vocations.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

(1) Under existing federal law, licensed health professionals employed by a tribal health program are required to be exempt, if licensed in any state, from the licensing requirements of the state in which the tribal health program performs specified services. A tribal health program is defined as an Indian tribe or tribal organization that operates any health program, service, function, activity, or facility funded, in whole or part, by the Indian Health Service.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health care practitioners by various healing arts boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

This bill would codify that federal requirement by specifying that a person who is licensed as a health care practitioner in any other state and is employed by a tribal health program is exempt from this state's licensing requirements with respect to acts authorized under the person's license where the tribal health program performs specified services.

(2) Existing law, the Dental Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of dentistry by the Dental Board of California within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law establishes the Dental Hygiene Committee of California under the jurisdiction of the board

and provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of dental hygienists by the committee.

This bill would require dental hygienists, upon initial licensure and renewal, to report their employment status to the committee and would require that information to be posted on the committee's Internet Web site.

Existing law provides that a dental hygienist may have his or her license suspended or revoked by the board for committing acts of unprofessional conduct, as defined.

This bill would include within the definition of unprofessional conduct the aiding or abetting of the unlicensed or unlawful practice of dental hygiene.

Existing law authorizes the committee to deny an application for licensure or to revoke or suspend a license for specified reasons.

This bill would require the committee to deny a license or renewal of a license to any person who is required by law to register as a sex offender.

Existing law authorizes the Dental Board of California to issue a special permit to persons meeting certain requirements, including furnishing satisfactory evidence of having graduated from a dental college.

This bill would allow that requirement to also be met through completion of an accredited advanced education program.

The bill would delete obsolete references.

(3) Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of physicians and surgeons by the Medical Board of California. Under existing law, the board issues a physician and surgeon's certificate to a licensed physician and surgeon. Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of podiatric medicine by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine within the Medical Board of California.

Existing law requires the Medical Board of California and the California Board of Podiatric Medicine to provide written notification by certified mail to any physician and surgeon or podiatrist who does not renew his or her license within 60 days of expiration.

This bill would require the Medical Board of California and the California Board of Podiatric Medicine to provide that written notification either by certified mail or by electronic mail if requested by the licensee. The bill would require the Medical Board of California to annually send an electronic notice to all licensees and applicants requesting confirmation that his or her electronic mail address is current.

Existing law authorizes the Medical Board of California to take action against all persons guilty of violating the Medical Practice Act. Existing law requires the Medical Board of California to enforce and administer various disciplinary provisions as to physician and surgeon certificate holders.

This bill would specify that those certificate holders include those who hold certificates that do not permit them to practice medicine, such as, but not limited to, retired, inactive, or disabled status certificate holders.

(4) Existing law, the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of licensed midwifery by the Medical Board of California. A violation of the act is a crime. Under existing law, these licenses are subject to biennial renewal that includes the payment of a specified fee and the completion of specified continuing education.

This bill would exempt a licensee from those renewal requirements if the licensee has applied to the board and has been issued a retired status license. The bill would prohibit the holder of a retired status license from engaging in the practice of midwifery. Because a violation of that prohibition would constitute a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) Existing law, the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, requires the California Board of Occupational Therapy to ensure proper supervision of occupational therapy assistants and aides. An aide is required to be supervised by an occupational therapist.

This bill would also provide for an aide to be supervised by an occupational therapy assistant.

→ (6) Existing law, the Psychology Licensing Law, provides for the licensure and regulation of psychologists by the Board of Psychology. Existing law provides that a licensed psychologist is a health care practitioner for purposes of specified telehealth provisions that concern the delivery of health care via information and communication technologies.

This bill would instead provide that a licensed psychologist is a health care provider subject to those telehealth provisions.

(7) Existing law, the Respiratory Care Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of respiratory care by the Respiratory Care Board of California.

Under existing law, during the period of any clinical training, a student respiratory care practitioner is required to be under the direct supervision, as defined, of a person holding a valid and current license.

This bill would require such a student to be under the direct supervision of a person with a valid, current, and unrestricted license.

Existing law authorizes the board to order the denial, suspension, or revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a license for specified causes including a pattern of substandard care.

This bill would expand that provision to also include negligence in the licensee's practice as a respiratory care practitioner, or in any capacity as a health care worker, consultant, supervisor, manager or health facility owner, or as a party responsible for the care of another.

Existing law authorizes the board to deny, suspend, place on probation, or revoke the license of any applicant or licenseholder who has obtained, possessed, used, or administered to himself or herself, or furnished or administered to another, any controlled substances or dangerous drug, except as directed by a specified health care provider.

This bill would also make illegally possessing any associated paraphernalia a ground for the denial, suspension, placing on probation, or revocation of a license.

(d) The board shall send a written notice of noncompliance to each licensee who fails to meet the reporting requirement of subdivision (a). Failure to comply with subdivision (a) will result in the midwife being unable to renew his or her license without first submitting the requisite data to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development for the year for which that data was missing or incomplete. The board shall not take any other action against the licensee for failure to comply with subdivision (a).

(e) The board, in consultation with the office and the Midwifery Advisory Council, shall devise a coding system related to data elements that require coding in order to assist in both effective reporting and the aggregation of data pursuant to subdivision (f). The office shall utilize this coding system in its processing of information collected for purposes of subdivision (f).

(f) The office shall report the aggregate information collected pursuant to this section to the board by July 30 of each year. The board shall include this information in its annual report to the Legislature.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation of this section shall not be a crime.

SEC. 15. Section 2518 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2518. (a) Licenses issued pursuant to this article shall be renewable every two years upon payment of the fee prescribed by Section 2520 and submission of documentation that the licensesholder has completed 36 hours of continuing education in areas that fall within the scope of the practice of midwifery, as specified by the board.

(b) Each license not renewed shall expire, but may be reinstated within five years from the expiration upon payment of the prescribed fee and upon submission of proof of the applicant's qualifications as the board may require.

(c) A licensee is exempt from the payment of the renewal fee required by Section 2520 and the requirement for continuing education if the licensee has applied to the board for, and been issued, a retired status license. The holder of a retired status license may not engage in the practice of midwifery.

SEC. 16. Section 2570.13 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2570.13. (a) Consistent with this section, subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of Section 2570.2, and accepted professional standards, the board shall adopt rules necessary to assure appropriate supervision of occupational therapy assistants and aides.

(b) An occupational therapy assistant may practice only under the supervision of an occupational therapist who is authorized to practice occupational therapy in this state.

(c) An aide providing delegated, client-related supportive services shall require continuous and direct supervision by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

→ SEC. 17. Section 2904.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2904.5. A psychologist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care provider subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5.

SEC. 18. Section 3057.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

3057.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the board shall permit a graduate of a foreign university who meets all of the following requirements to take the examinations for a certificate of registration as an optometrist:

- (a) Is over the age of 18 years.
- (b) Is not subject to denial of a certificate under Section 480.
- (c) Has a degree as a doctor of optometry issued by a university located outside of the United States.

SEC. 19. Section 3742 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

3742. During the period of any clinical training, a student respiratory care practitioner shall be under the direct supervision of a person holding a valid, current, and unrestricted license issued under this chapter. "Under the direct supervision" means assigned to a respiratory care practitioner who is on duty and immediately available in the assigned patient care area.

SEC. 20. Section 3750 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

3750. The board may order the denial, suspension, or revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a license issued under this chapter, for any of the following causes:

- (a) Advertising in violation of Section 651 or Section 17500.
- (b) Fraud in the procurement of any license under this chapter.
- (c) Knowingly employing unlicensed persons who present themselves as licensed respiratory care practitioners.
- (d) Conviction of a crime that substantially relates to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a respiratory care practitioner. The record of conviction or a certified copy thereof shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.
- (e) Impersonating or acting as a proxy for an applicant in any examination given under this chapter.
- (f) Negligence in his or her practice as a respiratory care practitioner.
- (g) Conviction of a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or of any provision of Division 2 (commencing with Section 500), or violating, or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of any provision of Division 2 (commencing with Section 500).
- (h) The aiding or abetting of any person to violate this chapter or any regulations duly adopted under this chapter.
- (i) The aiding or abetting of any person to engage in the unlawful practice of respiratory care.