



MEMORANDUM

DATE	April 16, 2015
TO	Policy and Advocacy Committee Members
FROM	Jonathan Burke Administrative Services Coordinator
SUBJECT	AB 773 (Baker) – Expiration of License/ Birthdate Renewal

Background:

This is a Board sponsored bill that seeks to establish that all psychologists' initial license periods are 24 months. This change will stop first time licensees being charged a full two-year fee for an abbreviated license period. The proposed language was approved by the Board at the November, 2014 meeting in San Diego.

The bill is being authored by Assemblymember Baker (R – AD16). The bill passed through the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions on consent. The bill will next be heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Action Requested:

To continue to support AB 773 (Baker).

Attachment A is the bill language.

Attachment B is the Fact Sheet.

Attachment C is the Board's Support Letter.

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 773

Introduced by Assembly Member Baker

February 25, 2015

An act to amend Section 2982 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to business and professions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 773, as introduced, Baker. Psychology licensing.

The Psychology Licensing Law establishes the Board of Psychology to license and regulate the practice of psychology. The law expires the term of a license based on the licensee's birth date.

This bill would instead expire the term of a license at the end of a 2-year period from the date the license was issued.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2982 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 2982. All licenses expire and become invalid at 12 midnight
4 on the last day of February, 1980, and thereafter shall expire at 12
5 midnight of the ~~legal birth date of the licensee during the second~~
6 ~~year of a two-year term, if not renewed.~~ *last date of the two-year*
7 *period from the date the license was issued.*
8 ~~The board shall establish by regulation procedures for the~~
9 ~~administration of the birth date renewal program, including but~~
10 ~~not limited to, the establishment of a pro rata formula for the~~

1 payments of fees by licentiates affected by the implementation of
2 that program and the establishment of a system of staggered license
3 application dates such that a relatively equal number of licenses
4 expire annually.

5 To renew an unexpired license, the licensee shall, on or before
6 the date on which it would otherwise expire, apply for renewal on
7 a form provided by the board, accompanied by the prescribed
8 renewal fee.



Assemblywoman Catharine Baker

AB 773: Psychology Licensing

Existing Law:

Currently, under Section 2982 of the Business and Professions Code, the Board of Psychology uses birth dates to determine the renewal and expiration dates for psychology licenses. The birth date renewal system issues licenses for a period of time ranging between 12 and 24 months depending on the licensee's birth month. If, for example, a licensee has a February birth date and his or her license is issued in March 2014, the license will expire at midnight on February 29, 2016. If, however, a licensee has a March birthday and his or her license is issued in March 2014, the license will expire at midnight on March 31, 2015. This illustrates the disparity from 1 to 2 years in licensure time under the current birth date system. In these examples, the license in the first scenario will expire after nearly 2 years, but in the second scenario, the license will expire after 12 months and 5 days. Despite the varying expiration dates, both licensees would need to pay the same initial license fee of \$400.00.

What is the background of this proposal?

In 1958, the psychology profession became regulated in California, and in 1967, licensure became necessary to practice psychology. The Board of Psychology currently uses a birth date renewal system to issue licenses. This system was introduced to distribute the Board's revenue flow and workload more evenly throughout the year instead of being flooded with forms and revenue at certain times during the year. Previously, when the system was first implemented, oral examinations were given twice yearly, so many licenses were issued around the same time each year. Now, the examination is computer administered, so licenses can be distributed throughout the year rather than at a specific time period.

What is the problem to be addressed?

Under the current birth date renewal system, psychology licenses will expire after a time period ranging from 12 to 24 months following the license issue date depending on the licensee's birthday. As illustrated above, the birth date renewal system places an unfair financial burden on first-time licensees because all licenses have an equal fee regardless of how long the license lasts.

What does this bill do?

This bill will amend Section 2982 of the Business and Professions Code, which addresses the renewal and expiration of psychology licenses under the Board of Psychology's birth date renewal system. The bill would replace the current birth date renewal system with a new system in which licenses will expire at midnight on the last date of a two-year period following the initial issuance date. This bill will provide clarity and consistency for psychology licensure.

Who is in support of the bill?

Board of Psychology (SPONSOR)
California Psychological Association

Who is the staff contact for this bill?

Faith Lane: (916) 319-2016; faith.lane@asm.ca.gov



March 10, 2015

The Honorable Catherine Baker
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4153
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 773 (BAKER) – PSYCHOLOGY LICENSING
SPONSOR & SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Baker:

The California Board of Psychology (Board) is sponsoring and **SUPPORTS AB 773**, which will ensure initial psychologist licenses expire two years from the initial issuance date.

First time licensees of the Board are currently paying the full license amount for their license when they are not always receiving that license for the complete two-year period. First time licensees are at the start of their careers as psychologists and have often incurred significant student debts in the process of earning undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The establishment of an initial license period that is always 24 months will stop these licensees paying a full fee for an abbreviated license period.

The Board's mission is to advance quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board's Executive Officer, Antonette Sorrick, at (916) 574-7113. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Erickson".

MICHAEL ERICKSON, PH.D.
President, Board of Psychology