

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 12, 2024

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 16, 2024

SENATE BILL

No. 1067

Introduced by Senator Smallwood-Cuevas
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bains and Jackson)

February 12, 2024

An act to add *and repeal* Section 871~~–to~~ of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1067, as amended, Smallwood-Cuevas. Healing arts: expedited licensure process: medically underserved area or population.

Existing law establishes various boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate various health professionals. Existing law requires specified boards to expedite the licensure process of an applicant who can demonstrate that they intend to provide abortions within their scope of practice and specifies the documentation an applicant is required to provide to demonstrate their intent.

This bill would require the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Registered Nursing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California, the California State Board of Pharmacy, the Dental Board of California, the Dental Hygiene Board of California, and the Physician Assistant Board to develop a process to expedite the licensure process by giving priority review status to the application of an applicant for a license who demonstrates that they intend to practice in a medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved population, as defined. The bill would authorize an applicant for a license to demonstrate their intent to practice in a medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved population

by providing proper documentation, including, but not limited to, a letter from an employer that includes prescribed information. The bill would provide that compliance with the bill does not require the department or any of the boards to open a regulatory or rulemaking process to change their licensee application process and would deem a board to be in compliance if it includes a supplemental letter or cover statement to their application explaining the availability of the expedited licensure process and indicating what an applicant's employer would need to provide to the board for the applicant to qualify for the priority review status. *The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2029.*

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 871 is added to the Business and
- 2 Professions Code, to read:
- 3 871. (a) The Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of
- 4 Registered Nursing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and
- 5 Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California, the California
- 6 State Board of Pharmacy, the Dental Board of California, the
- 7 Dental Hygiene Board of California, and the Physician Assistant
- 8 Board, shall develop a process to expedite the licensure process
- 9 by giving priority review status to the application of an applicant
- 10 for a license who demonstrates that they intend to practice in a
- 11 medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved
- 12 population, as defined in Section 128552 of the Health and Safety
- 13 Code.
- 14 (b) An applicant for a license may demonstrate their intent to
- 15 practice in a medically underserved area or serve a medically
- 16 underserved population by providing proper documentation,
- 17 including, but not limited to, a letter from an employer that does
- 18 all of the following:
- 19 (1) Indicating the employer is located in a medically underserved
- 20 area or indicating the employer serves a medically underserved
- 21 population and identifying which is applicable.
- 22 (2) Indicating that the applicant has accepted employment.
- 23 (3) Stating the applicant's proposed start date.

1 (c) Compliance with this section does not require the Department
2 of Consumer Affairs or any of the boards listed in subdivision (a)
3 to open a regulatory or rulemaking process to change their licensee
4 application process. A board shall be deemed to be in compliance
5 with this section if it includes a supplemental letter or cover
6 statement to their application explaining the availability of this
7 expedited licensure process and indicating what an applicant's
8 employer would need to provide to the board for the applicant to
9 qualify for the priority review status.

10 (d) *This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2029,*
11 *and as of that date is repealed.*

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