







# Meeting of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists

Thursday, April 1, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and continuing Friday, April 2, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m., if necessary

Teleconference Public Board Meeting

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## MEETING OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

**BOARD MEETING** 

APRIL 1-2, 2021

### TELECONFERENCE

			ERS

President Alireza Asgari; Vice-President Natalie Alavi; Fel Amistad; Rossana D'Antonio; Duane Friel; Michael Hartley Kathy Jones Irish; Eric Johnson; Coby King; Asha Lang; Betsy Mathieson; Paul Novak; Mohammad Qureshi; Frank Ruffino; and Wilfredo Sanchez

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I. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

### IV. Administration

A. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget Report

#### **GUIDE TO READING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

FM1 Projections
Identifies the amount that

BPELSG projected in July 2019 for FY 19-20

Percentage Change Provides a percentage reference on the difference between FM1 Projections

Prepared 7/03/20

Difference

ence ections ctions

		for FY 19-20		etween FM1 Project	ctions Pro	ovides a \$ different tween FM1 Project d Updated Proje
	Object Description Provides the name of the line item where our revenue and expenditures					
	occur	FY 19-20	FY 19-20	FY 19-20	%	\$
		4/12 Activity Log	FM 1 Projections	Updated Projections	Change	Difference
Revenue		riourny Log		1 10,000.01.0		
ito volido	Applications/Licensing Fees	1,196,248	1,646,000	1,646,000	0%	0
	Renewal fees	6,116,355	6,891,000	6,891,000	0%	0
	Delinquent fees	48,633	88,000	88,000	0%	0
	Other & Reimbursements	68,720	140,000	140,000	0%	0
	Interest	74,492	163,000	163,000	0%	0
Total Reve	enue:	7,504,448	8,928,000	8,928,000	0%	0
Expense						
	Personnel Services:					
	Salary & Wages (Staff)	1,956,776	2,924,425	2,924,425	0%	0
	Temp Help	88,479	123,785	123,700	0%	85
	Statutory Exempt (EO)	89,056	135,526	135,000	0%	526
	Board Member Per Diem	6,100	10,000	10,000	0%	0
	Overtime/Flex Elect/Lump Sum	725	0	900	0%	-900
	Staff Benefits	1,172,709	1,713,980	1,760,538	3%	-46,558
	Total Personnel Services	3,313,845	4,907,716	4,954,563	1%	-46,847
	Operating Expense and Equipment:					
	General Expense	51,411	67,000	80,000	19%	-13,000
	Printing .	25,056	8,000	30,000	275%	-22,000
	Communication	15,592	44,000	25,000	-43%	19,000
	Postage	0	50,000	25,000	-50%	25,000
	Insurance	103	16,000	17,000	6%	-1,000
	Travel In State	35,346	60,000	50,000	-17%	10,000

Revenue and Expenditures
This column is provided for reference and reflects the amount BPELSG spent in each area for FY 19-20 as of April 12, 2020 from the QBIRT report

Updated Projections
Identifies amounts for revenue and expenditure projected at the time the Financial Statement was prepared

### 0770 - Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists Financial Statement

	FY 20-21 FM 7 3/8 Activity Log	FY 20-21 FM 1 Projections	FY 20-21 Updated Projections	% Change	\$ Difference
Revenue					
1 Applications/Licensing Fees	622,176	1,508,000	908,166	-40%	0
2 Renewal fees	4,820,480	8,628,000	7,832,841	-9%	0
3 Delinquent fees	67,834	108,000	90,423	-16%	0
Other & Reimbursements	71,985	127,000	112,152	-12%	0
4 Interest	21,997	160,000	130,128	-19%	0
Total Revenue:	5,604,472	10,531,000	9,073,710	-14%	0
Expense					
Personnel Services:					
5 Salary & Wages (Staff)	1,602,930	2,698,000	2,873,456	7%	0
Temp Help	63,644	124,444	120,484	-3%	3,960
Statutory Exempt (EO)	72,997	122,463	125,580	3%	(3,117)
Board Member Per Diem	1,600	10,000	10,000	0%	0
Overtime/Flex Elect/Lump Sum	0	700	400	-43%	300
Staff Benefits	972,198	1,079,200	1,179,200	9%	0
Total Personnel Services	2,713,369	4,034,807	4,309,120	7%	(274,313)
Operating Expense and Equipment:	20.440	00.000	00.000	0%	0
General Expense	33,413	80,000	80,000		-
6 Printing	44,218	27,000	50,218	86%	( , ,
Communication	11,177	25,000	25,000	0%	
Postage	0	50,000	36,000	-28%	,
Insurance	0	150	105	-30%	
Travel In State	351	60,000	3,000	-95%	,
Travel, Out-of-State	0	800	0	-100%	
Training	0	250	250	0%	
7 Facilities Operations	557,960	360,000	600,000	67%	( -,,
8 C & P Services - Interdept.	432,947	670,000	670,000	0%	
9 C & P Services - External	1,945,263	1,930,000	1,955,000	1%	( -,,
10 DCA Pro Rata	1,278,750	1,748,000	1,748,000	0%	
DOI - Investigations	0	0	0	0%	
11 Interagency Services	10,573	25,000	25,000	0%	
Consolidated Data Center	118	22,000	22,000	0%	
Information Technology	103,029	32,000	105,000	228%	\ ' '
Equipment	21,356	143,000	140,000	-2%	-,
12 Other Items of Expense (ARF Deposit)	0	300,000	0	-100%	
Total OE&E	4,439,155	5,473,200	5,459,573	0%	- , -
Total Expense:	7,152,524	9,508,007	9,768,693	3%	(260,686)
Total Revenue:	5,604,472	10,531,000	9,073,710		
Total Expense:	7.152.524	9.508.007	9.768.693		
Difference:	(1,548,052)	1,022,993	(694,983)		

#### **Financial Statement Notes**

- **Applications/Licensing Fees -** The total amount collected for Applications and Licensing Fees is \$622,176 according to the March 8, 2021 Activity Log.
- **2 Renewal fees -** Renewal fees are not collected equally throughout the year. On average, the Board collects 75% of its renewal fees revenue in the first half of the fiscal year.
- **Delinquent fees** Approximately 90% of delinquent fee revenue is collected in the second half of the fiscal year.
- 4 Interest Includes income from surplus money investments earned on money in the Board's fund. The state treasury manages this money and the Board earns income based on the current interest rate.
- **5 Salary & Wages (Staff) -** The projected expenditures for salaries and wages is due to the Board almost being fully staffed, additional merit salary adjustments, and new bargaining unit agreements. The Board has the following vacancies: 1.0 SSM I, 1.0 SSA/AGPA, and 1.0 OT.
- **6 Printing -** \$25,000 in contract encumbrances in QBIRT reports (EDD mailers such as Pamphlets, Leaflets, and Brochures). Board staff is working with DCA Budgets to identify contracts.
- **7 Facilities Operations** Includes Facilities maintenance, Facilities operations, Janitorial Services, Rent and Leases, Exam Rental Sites, Security, and tenant improvements with DGS in a support planning role from the ARF Deposit.
- **8 C&P Services Interdepartmental -** Includes all contract services with other state agencies for examination services (Dept. of Conservation and Water Resources). This line item also now includes enforcement expenses for the Attorney General and the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- **9 C&P Services External -** Includes all external contracts (examination development, exam site rental, expert consultant agreements, and credit card processing). This line also includes our executed agreements for our business modernization project (system developer, project management, oversight, and software license subscription services).
- **10 DCA Pro Rata -** Includes distributed costs of programmatic and administrative services from DCA.
- 11 Interagency Services DCA Pro Rata shows up in this line throughout the year because of accountings inability to charge accruals for department distributed pro rata until the previous fiscal year closes.
- **12 Other Items of Expense (ARF Deposit) -** The Board has created an architectural revolving fund (ARF) to support tenant improvements throughout the office and the majority of costs will be new modular furniture procurement that has been moved over to Facilities Operations.

## ${\tt 0770}$ - Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's and Geologist's Fund Analysis of Fund Condition

(Dollars in Thousands)

Governor's Budget 2020-21	2	PY 019-20	2	CY 020-21	E	overnor's Budget BY 021-22	BY+1 022-23
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$	6,907	\$	4,509	\$	3,121	\$ 1,310
Prior Year Adjustment	\$	300	\$	-	\$		\$ _
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$	7,207	\$	4,509	\$	3,121	\$ 1,310
REVENUES AND TRANSFERS							
Revenues:							
4121200 Delinquent fees	\$	70	\$	90	\$	91	\$ 92
4127400 Renewal fees	\$	6,833	\$	7,832	\$	7,910	\$ 7,989
4129200 Other regulatory fees	\$	86	\$	112	\$	113	\$ 114
4129400 Other regulatory licenses and permits	\$	1,434	\$	908	\$	917	\$ 926
4150500 Interest Income from interfund loans	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
4163000 Income from surplus money investments	\$ \$	126	\$	259	\$	40	\$ -
4171400 Escheat of unclaimed checks and warrants	\$	22	\$	22	\$	22	\$ 22
4172500 Miscellaneous revenues	\$	1_	\$	1	\$_	1	\$ 1_
Totals, Revenues	\$	8,572	\$	9,224	\$	9,094	\$ 9,145
Transfers from Other Funds							
Revenue Transfer from Geology/General Fund	\$	-					
FO0001 Proposed GF Loan Repayment per item 1110-011-0770, Budget Act of 2011	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Totals, Revenues and Transfers	\$	8,572	\$	9,224	\$	9,094	\$ 9,145
Totals, Resources	\$	15,779	\$	13,733	\$	12,215	\$ 10,455
EXPENDITURES Disbursements:							
1110 Program Expenditures (State Operations)	\$	-	\$	_	\$	_	\$ _
1111 Department of Consumer Affairs (State Operations)	\$	10,243	\$	9,768	\$	10,061	\$ 10,363
8880 Financial Information System for CA (State Operations)		-1	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
9892 Supplemental Pension Payments (State Operations)	\$ \$	209	\$	209	\$	209	\$ 209
9900 Statewide Admin. (State Operations)	\$	819	\$	635	\$	635	\$ 635
Less funding provided by General Fund (State Operations)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Total Disbursements	\$	11,270	\$	10,612	\$	10,905	\$ 11,207
FUND BALANCE							 
Reserve for economic uncertainties	\$	4,509	\$	3,121	\$	1,310	\$ -752
Months in Reserve		5.1		3.4		1.4	-0.6

#### V. Legislation

- A. 2021 Legislative Calendar
- B. Discussion of Legislation for 2020
  - 1. AB 29 State bodies: meetings.
  - 2. AB 54 COVID-19 emergency order violation: license revocation
  - 3. AB 107 Licensure: veterans and military spouses.
  - 4. AB 225 Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.
  - 5. AB 339 State and local government: open meetings.
  - 6. AB 646 Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: expunged convictions.
  - 7. AB 885 Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.
  - 8. AB 1030 Professional Land Surveyors' Act and Professional Engineers Act.
  - 9. AB 1129 Home Inspectors License Law.
  - 10. AB 1291 State bodies: open meetings.
  - 11. AB 1386 License fees: military partners and spouses.
  - 12. SB 102 COVID-19 emergency order violation: license revocation.
  - 13. SB 407 Professional Land Surveyors' Act.
  - 14. SB 41 Land.
  - 15. SB 772 Professions and vocations: citations: minor violations

#### DEADLINES

	JANUARY										
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S					
					1	2					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	12	13	14	15	16					
17	<u>18</u>	19	20	21	<u>22</u>	23					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
31											

31										
FEBRUARY										
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S				
	1	2	3	4	5	6				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
14	<u>15</u>	16	17	18	<u>19</u>	20				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27				

28

	MARCH										
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S					
	1	2	3	4	5	6					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	<u>25</u>	26	27					
28	29	30	<u>31</u>								

APRIL										
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S				
				1	2	3				
4	<u>5</u>	6	7	8	9	10				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
25	26	27	28	29	<u>30</u>					

	MAY										
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S					
						1					
2	3	4	5	6	<u>7</u>	8					
9	10	11	12	13	<u>14</u>	15					
16	17	18	19	20	<u>21</u>	22					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29					
30	<u>31</u>										

<sup>\*</sup> Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee

- <u>Jan. 1</u> Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- <u>Jan. 10</u> Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (a)).
- Jan. 11 Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- <u>Jan. 22</u> Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Feb. 15 Presidents' Day
- **<u>Feb. 19</u>** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(a)(1)), (J.R. 54(a)).

- Mar. 25 Spring Recess begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- Mar. 31 Cesar Chavez Day.
- <u>Apr. 5</u> Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- <u>Apr. 30</u> Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to Fiscal Committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).
- May 7 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **non-fiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- $\underline{\text{May 14}}$  Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 7 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
- May 21 Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (a)(5)). Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 7 (J.R. 61 (a)(6)).
- May 31 Memorial Day.

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JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
6	<u>7</u>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	<u>15</u>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	<u>14</u>	15	<u>16</u>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	<u>16</u>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	<u>27</u>	28
29	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		1		

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	<u>3</u>	4
5	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	9	<u>10</u>	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

<b>June 1-4</b>	Floor Session Only. No committee, other than Conference or
	Rules, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

T 4	T 1 C 1.11	/T D	(1()(0))
June 4	Last day for bills to be <b>passed out of the house of origin</b>	(J.K.	61(a)(8).

June 7 Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).

June 15 Budget bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (c)(3)).

July 2 Independence Day observed.

<u>July 14</u> Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(10)).

<u>July 16</u> **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

Aug. 16 Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

<u>Aug. 27</u> Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(11)).

<u>Aug. 30-Sept. 10</u> Floor Session only. No committees, other than conference committees and Rules Committee, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

Sept. 3 Last day to amend bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

Sept. 6 Labor Day.

Sept. 10 Last day for each house to pass bills (J.R. 61(a)(14)).

Interim Study Recess begins at end of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

#### IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM STUDY RECESS

#### <u>2021</u>

Oct. 10 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 10 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 10 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(1)).

#### <u> 2022</u>

Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

<u>Jan. 3</u> Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51 (a)(4)).

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee

### AB 29 (Cooper, D-Sacramento; Coauthor: Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) State bodies: meetings.

**Status/History:** 1/11/2021 – Referred to Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization

**Location:** 1/11/2021 – Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization

**Introduced:** 12/7/2020

**Board Position:** Oppose Unless Amended (as of 2/4/2021)

**Board Staff Analysis:** 3/19/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires that all meetings of a state body, as defined, be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body, except as otherwise provided in that act. Existing law requires the state body to provide notice of its meeting, including specified information and a specific agenda of the meeting, as provided, to any person who requests that notice in writing and to make that notice available on the internet at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

This bill would require that notice to include all writings or materials provided for the noticed meeting to a member of the state body by the staff of a state agency, board, or commission, or another member of the state body that are in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at the meeting. The bill would require those writings or materials to be made available on the state body's internet website, and to any person who requests the writings or materials in writing, on the same day as the dissemination of the writings and materials to members of the state body or at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier. The bill would prohibit a state body from discussing those writings or materials, or from taking action on an item to which those writings or materials pertain, at a meeting of the state body unless the state body has complied with these provisions.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Section 11125 of the Government Code, relating to public meetings.

**Staff Comment:** This bill is very similar to AB 2028 from the 2020 legislative session. During the course of that session, AB 2028 was amended several times to change the time frame for providing the documents and to provide for various exemptions either to the types of documents that had to be provided at all (such as excluding closed session materials and certain documents pertaining to the State Treasurer) or that did not need to meet the specified time frame prior to the meeting (such as legislative, regulatory, or budgetary documents that became available in a lesser period of time than the specified time frame). Depending on the amendments, the Board's position was either "Watch" or "Oppose Unless Amended"; based on the final amendments, the Board's final position was "Watch." AB 2028 was ordered to the inactive file from the Senate floor at the end of the session.

AB 29 requires the documents/materials for a meeting to be provided to the public at the same time they are provided to the members or 72 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier. Currently, we post the meeting materials on our website and send out a notice to our e-mail

subscriber list that they are available on the same day we provide them to the Board members. If there are any addenda to the meetings after the initial distribution, we follow the same procedure.

AB 29 does not include language clarifying that the requirements to provide the materials to the public do not apply to materials to be discussed in closed session. It also does not include any exemptions for documents relating to legislative, regulatory, or budgetary matters that might become available in less then 72 hours prior to the meeting. At its February 4, 2021, meeting, the Board took an "oppose unless amended" position on AB 29 and is requesting that the bill be amended to include clarifying language to address these issues.

This bill has not yet been set for hearing. Three other bills introduced this session (AB 339, AB 885, and AB 1291) also propose to make various changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Staff Recommendation: No action needed at this time.

### **Introduced by Assembly Member Cooper** (Coauthor: Assembly Member Blanca Rubio)

December 7, 2020

An act to amend Section 11125 of the Government Code, relating to public meetings.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 29, as introduced, Cooper. State bodies: meetings.

Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires that all meetings of a state body, as defined, be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body, except as otherwise provided in that act. Existing law requires the state body to provide notice of its meeting, including specified information and a specific agenda of the meeting, as provided, to any person who requests that notice in writing and to make that notice available on the internet at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

This bill would require that notice to include all writings or materials provided for the noticed meeting to a member of the state body by the staff of a state agency, board, or commission, or another member of the state body that are in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at the meeting. The bill would require those writings or materials to be made available on the state body's internet website, and to any person who requests the writings or materials in writing, on the same day as the dissemination of the writings and materials to members of the state body or at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier. The bill would prohibit a state body from discussing those writings or materials, or from taking action on an item to which

AB 29 — 2 —

those writings or materials pertain, at a meeting of the state body unless the state body has complied with these provisions.

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 11125 of the Government Code is 2 amended to read:

11125. (a) The state body shall provide notice of its meeting to any person who requests that notice in writing. Notice shall be given and also made available on the Internet state body's internet website at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, meeting and shall include the name, address, and telephone number of any person who can provide further information prior to before the meeting, meeting but need not include a list of witnesses expected to appear at the meeting. The written notice shall additionally include the address of the Internet site internet website where notices required by this article are made available.

- (b) The notice of a meeting of a body that is a state body shall include a specific agenda for the meeting, containing a brief description of the items of business to be transacted or discussed in either open or closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. A description of an item to be transacted or discussed in closed session shall include a citation of the specific statutory authority under which a closed session is being held. No item shall be added to the agenda subsequent to the provision of this notice, unless otherwise permitted by this article.
- (c) (1) A notice provided pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include all writings or materials provided for the noticed meeting to a member of the state body by the staff of a state agency, board, or commission, or another member of the state body that are in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at the meeting.
- (2) The writings or materials described in paragraph (1) shall be made available on the state body's internet website, and to any person who requests the writings or materials in writing, on the same day as the dissemination of the writings and materials to

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members of the state body or at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier.

- (3) A state body may not distribute or discuss writings or materials described in paragraph (1), or take action on an item to which those writings or materials pertain, at a meeting of the state body unless the state body has complied with this subdivision.

  (c)
- (d) Notice of a meeting of a state body that complies with this section shall also constitute notice of a meeting of an advisory body of that state body, provided that the business to be discussed by the advisory body is covered by the notice of the meeting of the state body, provided that the specific time and place of the advisory body's meeting is announced during the open and public state body's meeting, and provided that the advisory body's meeting is conducted within a reasonable time of, and nearby, the meeting of the state body.

<del>(d)</del>

(e) A person may request, and shall be provided, notice pursuant to subdivision (a) for all meetings of a state body or for a specific meeting or meetings. In addition, at the state body's discretion, a person may request, and may be provided, notice of only those meetings of a state body at which a particular subject or subjects specified in the request will be discussed.

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(f) A request for notice of more than one meeting of a state body shall be subject to the provisions of Section 14911.

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(g) The notice shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof, upon request by any person with a disability. The notice shall include information regarding how, to whom, and by when a request for any disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services may be made by a person with a disability who requires these aids or services in order to participate in the public meeting.

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## AB 54 (Kiley, R-Rocklin; Coauthor: Senator Jones, R-Santee) COVID-19 emergency order violation: license revocation.

Status/History: 1/11/2021 – Referred to Assembly Committees on Business & Professions and

Governmental Organization

Location: 1/11/2021 – Assembly Committees on Business & Professions and Governmental

Organization

**Introduced:** 12/7/2020 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/19/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs and provides for the denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses for specified conduct. Additionally, existing law, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, which is administered by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, regulates the application, issuance, and suspension of alcoholic beverage licenses and provides the grounds upon which the department may suspend or revoke licenses.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Consumer Affairs, a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control from revoking a license for failure to comply with any COVID-19 emergency orders unless the board or department can prove that lack of compliance resulted in transmission of COVID-19.

**Affected Laws:** An act to add Sections 464.5 and 24200.8 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to business, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

**Staff Comment:** This bill would add Section 464.5 to the general provisions of the Business and Professions Code to specifically prohibit boards and bureaus [hereinafter referred to as "board"] within the Department of Consumer Affairs from revoking a license based on the failure of the license holder to comply with a COVID-19 emergency order unless the board could prove that the failure led to the transmission of the virus. This bill would also add Section 24200.8 to the Business and Professions Code specific to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

We have not received any complaints or other information indicating that our licensees have failed to comply with any of the COVID-19 emergency orders. However, other boards have dealt with these issues, mainly due to the nature of the businesses and professions they regulate (e.g., the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology and hair and nail salons). It is unlikely that the provisions of this bill would have much of an impact on the Board's enforcement actions.

This bill has not yet been set for hearing. Senate Bill 102 proposes to make similar changes as this bill and is currently set for hearing in the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "watch" on AB 54.

#### **Introduced by Assembly Member Kiley**

(Coauthor: Senator Jones)

December 7, 2020

An act to add Sections 464.5 and 24200.8 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to business, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 54, as introduced, Kiley. COVID-19 emergency order violation: license revocation.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs and provides for the denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses for specified conduct.

Existing law, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, which is administered by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, regulates the application, issuance, and suspension of alcoholic beverage licenses. The act provides the grounds upon which the department may suspend or revoke licenses.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Consumer Affairs, a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control from revoking a license for failure to comply with any COVID-19 emergency orders unless the board or department can prove that lack of compliance resulted in transmission of COVID-19.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . 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 464.5 is added to the Business and 2 Professions Code, to read:
- 464.5. The department and any board shall not revoke a license for failure to comply with any COVID-19 emergency orders, unless the department or board can prove that lack of compliance resulted in the transmission of COVID-19.
- 7 SEC. 2. Section 24200.8 is added to the Business and 8 Professions Code, to read:
  - 24200.8. The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control shall not revoke the license of any licensee for failure to comply with any COVID-19 emergency orders unless the department can prove that lack of compliance resulted in transmission of COVID-19.
  - SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:
- In order to protect businesses, including small businesses, which continue to make significant contributions to economic security,
- 19 which helps ensure public safety, during these unprecedented times
- 20 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as soon as possible, it is
- 21 necessary for this act to take effect immediately

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#### AB 107 (Salas, D-Bakersfield) Licensure: veterans and military spouses.

**Status:** 3/24/2021 – Read second time and amended.

**Location:** 3/24/2021 – Assembly

Introduced: 12/16/2020 Last Amended: 3/24/2021 Board Position: No position Board Staff Analysis: 3/24/2021

Bill Summary: (1) Under existing law, the Department of Consumer Affairs (department), under the control of the Director of Consumer Affairs, is comprised of various boards that license and regulate various professions and vocations. Existing law requires an applicant seeking a license from a board within the department to meet specified requirements and to pay certain licensing fees. Existing law requires a board within the department to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant submits an application to the board that includes a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for a temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Under existing law, some of the funds within the jurisdiction of a board consist of revenue from fees that are continuously appropriated. Existing law authorizes a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer these provisions.

This bill would expand the requirement to issue temporary licenses to practice a profession or vocation to any license issued by any board within the department, expect as provided. The bill would require a board to issue a temporary license within 30 days of receiving the required documentation if the results of a criminal background check do not show grounds for denial. The bill would require, if necessary to implement the bill's provisions, a board to submit to the department for approval draft regulations necessary to administer these provisions by June 15, 2022. The bill would make conforming changes.

(2) Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a transition assistance program for veterans who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States designed to assist them in successfully transitioning from military to civilian life in California. Existing law requires the program to include, among other topics, higher education benefits, vocational training assistance, small business resources and information, and housing information. Existing law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs in the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency to, among other things, ensure that certain businesses and professions that have potential impact upon the public health, safety, and welfare are adequately regulated. Existing law establishes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession. Existing law makes it unlawful for a person to engage in the business of, act in the capacity of, advertise as, or assume to act as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson without first obtaining a real estate license from the Department of Real Estate. Under existing law, the State Department of Public Health is responsible for issuing licenses for the operation of health facilities, clinics, and other facilities, as specified.

This bill would require the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the Department of Real Estate, and the State Department of Public Health to each place a prominently

displayed military licensure icon or hyperlink on the home page of its internet website that is linked to information about each occupational board or program for licensure or certification that it administers along with additional information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, service members, and their spouses, as specified. The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to have a prominently displayed military licensure icon or hyperlink at an appropriate location on its internet website that links to those websites. The bill would require an annual report to the Legislature containing specified information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, service members, and their spouses.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Sections 115.6 and 5132 of the Business and Professions Code, and to add Section 95 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to licensure, and making an appropriation therefor.

**Staff Comment:** Current law requires the applicant to submit certain documentation in applying for a temporary license under Section 115.6. That documentation, as specified in subdivision (c), includes verification that the applicant is a married to an active duty member of the military who is assigned to a duty station in California under official active duty military orders; an application with an affidavit from the applicant attesting that they meet the requirements for a temporary license in the same area and scope of practice as they are licensed in another state and written verification from their original jurisdiction of licensure indicating they are licensed in good standing; and, if requested, a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check. This bill would require a temporary license to be issued within 30 days after receiving the documentation required in subdivision (c) of Section 115.6 if the results of a criminal background check do not show grounds for denial of the license.

Current law also requires applicants for licenses issued by this Board to pass the state-specific licensure examinations; this requirement is contained in a separate subdivision from subdivision (c). Based on the language proposed to be added to Section 115.6 requiring that a temporary license be issued within 30 days of receiving the documentation required by subdivision (c) if the criminal background check does not provide grounds for denial, it is unclear whether the temporary license would have to be issued before the applicant passes the required examinations. Board staff believes this should be clarified by adding language to make it clear that the applicant must pass the examinations prior to the issuance of the temporary license.

This bill is similar to two bills (AB 2549 and AB 3045) from the 2020 legislative session. Those bills did not move forward last year due to the need to prioritize bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two other bills introduced this session (AB 225 and AB 1386) also propose to make various changes to the laws pertaining to licensure for military spouses.

This bill was heard in the Assembly Business & Professions Committee on March 23, 2021. It passed with the author's acceptance of amendments recommended by the Committee. Those amendments are reflected in the March 24, 2021, version of the bill.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends the Board take a position of "oppose unless amended" on AB 107 and request that language be added to clarify that applicants for a license issued by this Board must pass the appropriate state-specific licensure examinations prior to the issuance of the temporary license.

### AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2021 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 25, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

#### ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 107

#### **Introduced by Assembly Member Salas**

December 16, 2020

An act to amend Sections 115.6 and 5132—of, and to add Section 115.7 to, of the Business and Professions Code, and to add Section 95 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to licensure, and making an appropriation therefor.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 107, as amended, Salas. Licensure: veterans and military spouses. (1) Under existing law, the Department of Consumer Affairs (department), under the control of the Director of Consumer Affairs, is comprised of various boards that license and regulate various professions and vocations. Existing law requires an applicant seeking a license from a board within the department to meet specified requirements and to pay certain licensing fees. Existing law requires a board within the department to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant submits an application to the board that includes a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for a temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Under existing law, some of the funds within the jurisdiction of a board consist of revenue from fees that are continuously appropriated. Existing law authorizes a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer these provisions.

This bill would require boards not subject to the temporary licensing provisions described above to issue licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as provided. The bill would require an application for a license to include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all requirements for a license, in the same area and scope of practice as a license issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill's expansion of the requirement to issue licenses would result in revenues from fees for certain licenses being deposited into continuously appropriated funds. By establishing a new source of revenue for those continuously appropriated funds, the bill would make an appropriation.

This bill would expand the requirement to issue temporary licenses to practice a profession or vocation to include licenses issued by the Veterinary Medical Board, the Dental Board of California, the Dental Hygiene Board of California, the California State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, the Board of Psychology, the California Board of Occupational Therapy, the Physical Therapy Board of California, and the California Board of Accountancy. any board within the department, except as provided. The bill would require a board to issue a temporary license within 30 days of receiving the required documentation. The bill would further specify that an applicant seeking a temporary license submit a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for a temporary license in the same area and scope of practice for which the applicant holds a license in another state, district, or territory of the United States. documentation if the results of a criminal background check do not show grounds for denial. The bill would specifically direct revenues from fees for temporary licenses issued by the California Board of Accountancy to be credited to the Accountancy Fund, a \_3\_ AB 107

continuously appropriated fund. By establishing a new source of revenue for a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation. The bill would require require, if necessary to implement the bill's provisions, a board to submit to the department for approval draft regulations necessary to administer these provisions by June 15, 2022. The bill would exempt from these provisions a board that has a process in place by which an out-of-state licensed applicant in good standing who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States is able to receive expedited, temporary authorization to practice while meeting state-specific requirements for a period of at least one year. The bill would make conforming changes. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill's expansion of the requirement to issue temporary licenses would result in revenues from fees for certain licenses being deposited into continuously appropriated funds. By establishing a new source of revenue for those continuously appropriated funds, the bill would make an appropriation.

(2) Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a transition assistance program for veterans who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States designed to assist them in successfully transitioning from military to civilian life in California. Existing law requires the program to include, among other topics, higher education benefits, vocational training assistance, small business resources and information, and housing information. Existing law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs in the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency to, among other things, ensure that certain businesses and professions that have potential impact upon the public health, safety, and welfare are adequately regulated. Existing law establishes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession. Existing law makes it unlawful for a person to engage in the business of, act in the capacity of, advertise as, or assume to act as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson without first obtaining a real estate license from the Department of Real Estate. Under existing law, the State Department of Public Health is responsible for issuing licenses for the operation of health facilities, clinics, and other facilities, as specified.

This bill would require the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the Department of Real Estate,

and the State Department of Public Health to each place a prominently displayed military licensure icon or hyperlink on the home page of its internet website that is linked to information about each occupational board or program for licensure or certification that it administers along with additional information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, service members, and their spouses, as specified. The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to have a prominently displayed military licensure icon or hyperlink at an appropriate location on its internet website that links to those websites. The bill would require an annual report to the Legislature containing specified information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, service members, and their spouses.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- 2 (a) If active duty military personnel, veterans, service members
- separating from military service, and their spouses are able to
- maintain careers through frequent moves and key transitions, they 4
- are able to help support their families while providing critical 5
- services to their communities. Yet, if a military spouse is
- transferred to California, or a service member leaves the Armed
- 8 Forces of the United States and returns to or remains in California,
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- these professionals may face difficulty transporting their 10 professional licenses obtained in another state.

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- (b) The process for transferring licenses for professional careers can be long, burdensome, redundant, and expensive and can prevent some military spouses, veterans, and separating service members from obtaining employment in their field.
- (c) Removing barriers to license transfers for spouses of active duty service members, separating service members, and veterans would ease the burden of relocation and transition and provide vital stability to military families and the communities they serve.

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(d) Prioritizing military spouses as part of state economic recovery efforts must be viewed proactively in a way that recognizes their preexisting challenge of substantially higher unemployment and underemployment than their civilian counterparts and with broader goals, such as bridging gender gaps in wage earning, reducing military and veteran financial insecurity, ensuring successful transitions into veteran life, and fostering successful community participation and sense of belonging.

- SEC. 2. Section 115.6 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 115.6. (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision—(h), (i), a board within the department shall, after appropriate investigation, issue the following eligible a temporary-licenses license to practice a profession or vocation to an applicant—within 30 days of receiving the required documentation pursuant to meeting who meets the requirements set forth in subdivision—(c): (c).
  - (1) Registered nurse license by the Board of Registered Nursing.
- (2) Vocational nurse license issued by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.
- (3) Psychiatric technician license issued by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.
- (4) Speech-language pathologist license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
- (5) Audiologist license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
  - (6) All licenses issued by the Veterinary Medical Board.
- (7) All licenses issued by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.
  - (8) All licenses issued by the Medical Board of California.
- (9) All licenses issued by the Podiatric Medical Board of California.
- 34 (10) All licenses issued by the Dental Board of California.
- 35 (11) All licenses issued by the Dental Hygiene Board of 36 California.
- 37 (12) All licenses issued by the California State Board of 38 Pharmacy.
- 39 (13) All licenses issued by the State Board of Barbering and 40 Cosmetology.

(14) All licenses issued by the Board of Psychology.

- (15) All licenses issued by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.
- (16) All licenses issued by the Physical Therapy Board of California.
- (17) All licenses issued by the California Board of Accountancy. Revenues
- (2) Revenues from fees for temporary licenses issued under this paragraph by the California Board of Accountancy shall be credited to the Accountancy Fund in accordance with Section 5132.
- (b) The board may conduct an investigation of an applicant for purposes of denying or revoking a temporary license issued pursuant to this section. This investigation may include a criminal background check.
- (c) An applicant seeking a temporary license pursuant to this section shall meet the following requirements:
- (1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.
- (2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board.
- (3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the temporary license, in the same area and scope of practice issued in the other state, district, or territory of the United States, as described in paragraph (2), and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.
- (4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be

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grounds for the denial or revocation of a temporary license issued by the board.

- (5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.
- (6) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check.
- (d) A board shall issue a temporary license pursuant to this section within 30 days following receipt of the documentation specified in subdivision (c) if the results of the criminal background check do not show grounds for denial.

<del>(d)</del>

(e) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section may be immediately terminated upon a finding that the temporary licenseholder failed to meet any of the requirements described in subdivision (c) or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for temporary licensure. Upon termination of the temporary license, the board shall issue a notice of termination that shall require the temporary licenseholder to immediately cease the practice of the licensed profession upon receipt.

<del>(e)</del>

(f) An applicant seeking a temporary license as a civil engineer, geotechnical engineer, structural engineer, land surveyor, professional geologist, professional geophysicist, certified engineering geologist, or certified hydrogeologist pursuant to this section shall successfully pass the appropriate California-specific examination or examinations required for licensure in those respective professions by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

<del>(f)</del>

- (g) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section shall expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance of an expedited license pursuant to Section 115.5, a license by endorsement, or upon denial of the application for expedited licensure by the board, whichever occurs first.
- 39 <del>(g)</del>

(h) A board shall submit to the department for—approval approval, if necessary to implement this section, draft regulations necessary to administer this section by June 15, 2022. These regulations shall be adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

<del>(h)</del>

- (i) (A) This section shall not apply to a board that has a process in place by which an out-of-state licensed applicant in good standing who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forced of the United States is able to receive expedited, temporary authorization to practice while meeting state-specific requirements for a period of at least one year.
- (B) This section shall apply only to the extent that it does not amend an initiative or violate constitutional requirements.
- SEC. 3. Section 115.7 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:
- 115.7. (a) A board not specified in subdivision (a) of Section 115.6 shall, after appropriate investigation, issue a license to an applicant if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
- (1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.
- (2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a license from the board.
- (3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the license, in the same area and scope of practice as issued in the other state, district, or territory of the United States described in paragraph (2), and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing

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jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.

- (4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be grounds for the denial or revocation of a license issued by the board.
- (5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.
- (6) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background cheek.
- (b) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.

<del>SEC. 4.</del>

- *SEC. 3.* Section 5132 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 5132. (a) All moneys received by the board under this chapter from any source and for any purpose and from a temporary license issued under Section 115.6 shall be accounted for and reported monthly by the board to the Controller and at the same time the moneys shall be remitted to the State Treasury to the credit of the Accountancy Fund.
- (b) The secretary-treasurer of the board shall, from time to time, but not less than once each fiscal year, prepare or have prepared on their behalf, a financial report of the Accountancy Fund that contains information that the board determines is necessary for the purposes for which the board was established.
- (c) The report of the Accountancy Fund, which shall be published pursuant to Section 5008, shall include the revenues and the related costs from examination, initial licensing, license renewal, citation and fine authority, and cost recovery from enforcement actions and case settlements.

37 SEC. 5.

38 SEC. 4. Section 95 is added to the Military and Veterans Code,

39 to read:

95. (a) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall place a prominently displayed military licensure icon or hyperlink on its internet website, in an appropriate location pertaining to licensure and employment opportunities for veterans, service members, and spouses, that links to the internet websites identified in this section.

- (b) The Department of Consumer Affairs, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the Department of Real Estate, and the State Department of Public Health shall place a prominently displayed military licensure icon or hyperlink on the home page of their internet websites, linked to information for each occupational board or program for licensure or certification that it administers. In addition to general licensure or certificate information, the following information shall be displayed:
- (1) Each licensing agency's process for expediting applications for service members, veterans, and spouses, including the average processing times for expedited applications and the number of expedited applications requested in the calendar year.
- (2) The availability of temporary or provisional licensure, specific requirements needed to obtain a temporary or provisional license, and how long the provisional or temporary license is valid.
- (c) (1) The Department of Consumer Affairs shall establish a specific gateway aligned with the existing "Board and Bureau Military Contact Information," "Expedited Licensure," and "Renewal Fee Waivers" gateways on their Military Member Resources page, including a list of all boards that provide temporary or provisional licensure, with hyperlinks linking to each board's military licensure data.
- (2) The Department of Consumer Affairs shall establish a "Licensure by Endorsement" section on its internet website listing all boards that offer an option for licensure by endorsement, accompanied by a hyperlink to each board's military licensure data.
- (d) The Department of Consumer Affairs, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the Department of Real Estate, and the State Department of Public Health shall compile information on military, veteran, and spouse licensure into an annual report for the Legislature, which shall be submitted in conformance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The report shall include all of the following:

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(1) The number of applications for a license submitted by active duty service members, separating service members, veterans, or military spouses per calendar year.

- (2) The number of licenses issued and denied, including reason for denial, to active duty service members, separating service members, veterans, and military spouses per calendar year.
- (3) The number of licenses of active duty service members, separating service members, veterans, or military spouses that were suspended or revoked per calendar year.
- (4) The number of applications for waived renewal fees received from active duty service members and military spouses per calendar year.
- (5) The number of fee waivers issued to active duty service members and military spouses per calendar year.
- (6) The average length of time between application and issuance of licenses for active duty service members, separating service members, veterans, or military spouses per board and occupation. SEC. 6.
- SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution.

# AB 225 (Gray, D-Merced; Gallagher, R-Yuba City; and Patterson, R-Fresno) Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.

Status: 1/28/2021 – Re-referred to the Assembly Committees on Business & Professions and Military &

Veterans Affairs

**Location:** 1/28/2021 – Assembly Business & Professions Committee

**Introduced:** 1/11/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** This bill would amend Section 115.6 and add Section 115.7 of the Business and Professions Code. Existing Section 115.6 requires that certain board within the Department of Consumer Affairs issue a temporary license for certain license types if the applicant meets the requirements specified in the section. Existing law provides that the temporary license expires 12 months after it is issued, or upon issuance of a permanent license, or upon denial of a license. This bill would change the 12-month time period to 30 months. This bill would also add Section 115.7, which would apply to boards not listed in Section 115.6.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Section 115.6 of, and to add Section 115.7 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations, and making an appropriation therefor.

**Staff Comment:** This Board is included in Section 115.6. As such, the addition of Section 115.7 would not apply to this Board.

Currently, if an applicant meets the requirements of Section 115.6, the Board issues a permanent license. The Board does not have a mechanism for issuing temporary licenses. Furthermore, by meeting the requirements of Section 115.6, the applicant would have met all of the requirements for a permanent license since they are required to pass any state-specific examinations related to the discipline/profession in which they are seeking licensure. As such, the changes proposed by this bill would not affect the Board's process.

Two other bills introduced this session (AB 107 and AB 1386) also propose to make various changes to the laws pertaining to licensure for military spouses.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "watch" on AB 225.

## Introduced by Assembly Members Gray, Gallagher, and Patterson

January 11, 2021

An act to amend Section 115.6 of, and to add Section 115.7 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations, and making an appropriation therefor.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 225, as introduced, Gray. Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.

Under existing law, the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the control of the Director of Consumer Affairs, is comprised of various boards that license and regulate various professions and vocations, including healing arts licensees. Existing law requires an applicant seeking a license from a board within the department to meet specified requirements and to pay certain licensing fees. Existing law requires specified boards within the department to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant holds a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board. Existing law requires these temporary licenses to expire 12 months after issuance. Under existing law, some of the funds within the jurisdiction of a board consist of revenue from fees that are continuously appropriated.

This bill would require the temporary licenses described above to expire 30 months after issuance. The bill would require boards not responsible for the licensure and regulation of healing arts licensees and not subject to the temporary licensing provisions described above to issue licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as provided. The bill would require an application for a license to include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all requirements for a license. The bill would authorize the immediate termination of a license issued pursuant to these provisions upon a finding that the licenseholder failed to meet specified requirements or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for licensure, as provided. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill's expansion of the requirement to issue licenses would result in revenues from fees for certain licenses being deposited into continuously appropriated funds. By establishing a new source of revenue for those continuously appropriated funds, the bill would make an appropriation.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 115.6 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 115.6. (a) A board within the department shall, after
- 4 appropriate investigation, issue the following eligible temporary
- 5 licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets the requirements set
- 6 forth in subdivision (c):

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(1) Registered nurse license by the Board of Registered Nursing.

- (2) Vocational nurse license issued by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.
- (3) Psychiatric technician license issued by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.
- (4) Speech-language pathologist license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
- (5) Audiologist license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
  - (6) Veterinarian license issued by the Veterinary Medical Board.
- (7) All licenses issued by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.
  - (8) All licenses issued by the Medical Board of California.
- (9) All licenses issued by the Podiatric Medical Board of California.
- (b) The board may conduct an investigation of an applicant for purposes of denying or revoking a temporary license issued pursuant to this section. This investigation may include a criminal background check.
- (c) An applicant seeking a temporary license pursuant to this section shall meet the following requirements:
- (1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.
- (2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board.
- (3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing

jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.

- (4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be grounds for the denial or revocation of a temporary license issued by the board.
- (5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.
- (6) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check.
- (d) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.
- (e) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section may be immediately terminated upon a finding that the temporary licenseholder failed to meet any of the requirements described in subdivision (c) or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for temporary licensure. Upon termination of the temporary license, the board shall issue a notice of termination that shall require the temporary licenseholder to immediately cease the practice of the licensed profession upon receipt.
- (f) An applicant seeking a temporary license as a civil engineer, geotechnical engineer, structural engineer, land surveyor, professional geologist, professional geophysicist, certified engineering geologist, or certified hydrogeologist pursuant to this section shall successfully pass the appropriate California-specific examination or examinations required for licensure in those respective professions by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.
- (g) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section shall expire 12 30 months after issuance, upon issuance of an expedited license pursuant to Section 115.5, or upon denial of the application for expedited licensure by the board, whichever occurs first.
- 39 SEC. 2. Section 115.7 is added to the Business and Professions 40 Code, to read:

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115.7. (a) A board not specified in Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) or subdivision (a) of Section 115.6 shall, after appropriate investigation, issue a license to an applicant if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.
- (2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a license from the board.
- (3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.
- (4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be grounds for the denial or revocation of a license issued by the board.
- (5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.
- (6) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check.
- (b) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.
- 39 (c) A license issued pursuant to this section may be immediately 40 terminated pursuant to the board's procedural due process

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requirements, upon a finding that the licenseholder failed to meet any of the requirements described in subdivision (a) or provided 3 substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's 4 eligibility for licensure. Upon termination of the license, the board shall issue a notice of termination that shall require the 5 6 licenseholder to immediately cease the practice of the licensed 7 profession or vocation upon receipt.

8 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school 10 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty 12 13 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within 14 15 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California 16 Constitution.

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## AB 339 (Lee, D-Milpitas; and Cristina Garcia, D-Bell Gardens) State and local government: open meetings.

Status/History: 1/28/2021 – Introduced

**Location:** 1/29/2021 – Assembly

**Introduced:** 1/28/2021

**Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The Act requires at least one member of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

This bill would require all meetings, as defined, to include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services and requires both a call-in and an internet-based service option to be provided to the public. The bill would require instructions on how to attend the meeting via call-in or internet-based service to be posted online along with the meeting agenda in an easily accessible location at least 72 hours before all regular meetings and at least 24 hours before all special meetings. The bill would require all meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to address the legislative body remotely via call-in or internet-based service, as provided, and would require those persons commenting in a language other than English to have double the amount of time as those giving a comment in English, if time restrictions on public comment are utilized, except as specified. This bill would also require agendas and instructions for accessing the meeting to be translated into all languages for which 5% of the population in the area governed by the state body's jurisdiction are speakers.

This bill would also make similar changes to the laws that govern meetings of a house of the Legislature, and its committees, and to the laws that govern legislative bodies of local agencies (the Ralph M. Brown Act).

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Sections 9027, 54953, 54954.2, 54954.3, 11122.5, 11123, 11125.7 of, and to add Sections 9027.1 and 9028.1 to, the Government Code, relating to state and local government.

**Staff Comment:** This bill would require the Board to provide both a call-in (telephone) option and an internet-based service option (such as WebEx) for the public to attend all meetings of the Board, even if the meeting was held in person (with all the Board members in one location). The bill would also require that the internet-based service option would have to provide closed captioning services. Additionally, this bill would require that persons commenting in a language other than English be given double the amount of time to comment. It would also require that agendas and instructions on how to access the meetings be translated into all languages for which 5% of the population in the area governed by the state body's jurisdiction are speakers.

This bill has not yet been assigned to a committee. Three other bills introduced this session (AB 29, AB 885, and AB 1291) also propose to make various changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board take a "watch" position on AB 339.

## **Introduced by Assembly Members Lee and Cristina Garcia**

January 28, 2021

An act to amend Sections 9027, 54953, 54954.2, 54954.3, 11122.5, 11123, 11125.7 of, and to add Sections 9027.1 and 9028.1 to, the Government Code, relating to state and local government.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 339, as introduced, Lee. State and local government: open meetings.

Existing law requires all meetings, as defined, of a house of the Legislature or a committee thereof to be open and public, and requires all persons to be permitted to attend the meetings, except as specified.

This bill would require all meetings, including gatherings using teleconference technology, to include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services and requires both a call-in and an internet-based service option to be provided to the public. The bill would require all meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed legislation, as provided, and requires translation services to be provided for the 10 most-spoken languages, other than English, in California, and would require those persons commenting in a language other than English to have double the amount of time as those giving a comment in English, if time restrictions on public comment are utilized, except as specified. The bill would require instructions on how to attend the meeting to be posted at the time notice of the meeting is publicized, as specified.

Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate.

This bill would require all meetings to include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services and requires both a call-in and an internet-based service option to be provided to the public. The bill would require, even in the case of a declared state or local emergency, teleconferenced meetings to include an in-person public comment opportunity. The bill would require all meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to address the legislative body remotely via call-in or internet-based service, as provided, and would require instructions on how to attend the meeting to be posted at the time notice of the meeting is publicized, as specified. The bill would also require the legislative bodies of the local agency to employ a sufficient amount of qualified bilingual persons to provide translation during the meeting in the language of a non-English-speaking person, in jurisdictions which govern a substantial number of non-English-speaking people, as defined.

Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The Act requires at least one member of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

This bill would require all meetings, as defined, to include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services and requires both a call-in and an internet-based service option to be provided to the public. The bill would require instructions on how to attend the meeting via call-in or internet-based service to be posted online along with the meeting agenda in an easily accessible location at least 72 hours before all regular meetings and at least 24 hours before all special meetings. The bill would require all meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to address the legislative body remotely via call-in or internet-based service, as provided, and would require those persons commenting in a language other than English to have double the amount of time as those giving a comment in English, if time restrictions on public comment are utilized, except as specified.

Existing law, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, requires any materials explaining services available to the public to be translated

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into any non-English language spoken by a substantial number of the public, as defined, served by the agency, and requires every state and local agency serving a substantial number of non-English-speaking people, as defined, to employ a sufficient number of qualified bilingual persons in public contact positions or as interpreters to ensure provision of information and services in the language of the non-English-speaking person.

This bill would require legislative bodies of local agencies, and state bodies, as defined, to translate agendas and instructions for accessing the meeting to be translated into all languages for which 5% of the population in the area governed by the local agency, or state body's jurisdiction, are speakers.

By imposing new duties on local governments with respect to meetings, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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

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

- SECTION 1. Section 9027 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 3 9027. Except as otherwise provided in this article, all meetings
- 4 of a house of the Legislature or a committee thereof shall be open 5 and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend the
- 6 meetings. Additionally, all meetings shall include an opportunity
- 7 for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based
- 8 service option that provides closed captioning services. Both a
- 9 call-in and an internet-based service option shall be provided to

the public. As used in this article, "meeting" means a gathering of a quorum of the members of a house or committee in one place place, including a gathering using teleconference technology, for the purpose of discussing legislative or other official matters within the jurisdiction of the house or committee. As used in this article, "committee" includes a standing committee, joint committee, conference committee, subcommittee, select committee, special committee, research committee, or any similar body.

SEC. 2. Section 9027.1 is added to the Government Code, to read:

9027.1. All meetings shall provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed legislation, either in person or remotely via call-in or internet-based service, consistent with requirements in Section 9027. Persons commenting in person shall not have more time or in any other way be prioritized over persons commenting remotely via call-in or internet-based service. Translation services shall be provided for the 10 most-spoken languages, other than English, in California. If there are time restrictions on public comment, persons giving a public comment in a language other than English shall have double the amount of time as those giving a comment in English to allow for translation, unless simultaneous translation equipment is available.

SEC. 3. Section 9028.1 is added to the Government Code, to read:

9028.1. Instructions on how to attend the meeting via call-in or internet-based service shall be posted online in an easily accessible location at the time the meeting is scheduled and notice of the meeting is published. The posted instructions shall include translations into the 10 most-spoken languages, other than English, in California, and shall list a hotline that members of the public can call for assistance, with assistance in the 10 most-spoken languages provided.

SEC. 4. Section 54953 of the Government Code is amended to read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Additionally, all meetings shall include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides

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closed-captioning services. Both a call-in and an internet-based service option shall be provided to the public.

- (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.
- (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used by members of the legislative body for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, other than what is required by subdivision (a), it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference location.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
- (5) Notwithstanding any laws that prohibit in-person government meetings in the case of a declared state of emergency, including a public health emergency, teleconferenced meetings shall include an in-person public comment opportunity, wherein members of the public can report to a designated site to give public comment in person.

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

- (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
- (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.
- (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.
- (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.
- (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section

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1 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory 2 committee to a county sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to 3 Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the 4 Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more 5 members.

SEC. 5. Section 54954.2 of the Government Code is amended to read:

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54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's Internet Web site, internet website, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and request for disability-related modification accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting. In compliance with the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Chapter 17.5 (commencing with Section 7290) of Division 7 of Title 1), agendas and instructions for accessing the meeting, whether teleconferenced or in person, shall be translated into all languages for which 5 percent of the population in the area governed by the local agency is a speaker.

- (2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site, internet website, the following provisions shall apply:
- (A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary—Internet Web site internet website homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political

subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.

- (B) An online posting of an agenda including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:
- (i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used Internet search applications.
  - (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

- (iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.
- (C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site internet website and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:
- (i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary—Internet Web site internet website homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an—Internet Web site internet website with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.
- (ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.
- (iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

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(iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

- (D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:
- (i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an Internet Web site internet website of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.
- (ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.
- (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her the member's own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.

(1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.

- (2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).
- (3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.
- (c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.
- (d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's Internet Web site, internet website, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:
- (1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- SEC. 6. Section 54954.3 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 54954.3. (a) Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2. All meetings must also provide the public with an opportunity to address the legislative body

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remotely via call-in and internet-based service, consistent with requirements in Section 54953. Persons commenting in person shall not have more time or in any other way be prioritized over persons commenting remotely via call-in or internet-based service. Instructions on how to attend the meeting via call-in or internet-based service shall be posted online along with the meeting agenda in an easily accessible location. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a committee, composed exclusively of members of the legislative body, at a public meeting wherein all interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the legislative body. Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that item. 

(b) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a) is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting the total amount of time allocated for public testimony on particular issues and for each individual speaker.

- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the legislative body of a local agency limits time for public comment, the legislative body of a local agency shall provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the legislative body of a local agency.
- (3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if the legislative body of a local agency utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.
- (c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.

(d) Legislative bodies of local agencies shall employ a sufficient amount of qualified bilingual persons to provide translation during the meeting in the language of the non-English-speaking person, in jurisdictions which govern a substantial number of non-English-speaking people. "Non-English-speaking people" is defined as members of a group who either do not speak English, or who are unable to effectively communicate in English because it is not their native language, and who comprise 5 percent or more of the people served by the statewide or any local office or facility of a state agency.

- SEC. 7. Section 11122.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 11122.5. (a) As used in this article, "meeting" includes any congregation of a majority of the members of a state-body body, including a virtual congregation using teleconference technology, at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the state body to which it pertains.
- (b) (1) A majority of the members of a state body shall not, outside of a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter of the state body.
- (2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to prevent an employee or official of a state agency from engaging in separate conversations or communications outside of a meeting authorized by this chapter with members of a legislative body in order to answer questions or provide information regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the state agency, if that person does not communicate to members of the legislative body the comments or position of any other member or members of the legislative body.
- (c) The prohibitions of this article do not apply to any of the following:
- (1) Individual contacts or conversations between a member of a state body and any other person that do not violate subdivision (b).
- (2) (A) The attendance of a majority of the members of a state body at a conference or similar gathering open to the public that involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or

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to public agencies of the type represented by the state body, if a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specified nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the state body.

- (B) Subparagraph (A) does not allow members of the public free admission to a conference or similar gathering at which the organizers have required other participants or registrants to pay fees or charges as a condition of attendance.
- (3) The attendance of a majority of the members of a state body at an open and publicized meeting organized to address a topic of state concern by a person or organization other than the state body, if a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the state body.
- (4) The attendance of a majority of the members of a state body at an open and noticed meeting of another state body or of a legislative body of a local agency as defined by Section 54951, if a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled meeting, business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the other state body.
- (5) The attendance of a majority of the members of a state body at a purely social or ceremonial occasion, if a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the state body.
- (6) The attendance of a majority of the members of a state body at an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of that body, if the members of the state body who are not members of the standing committee attend only as observers.
- SEC. 8. Section 11123 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 11123. (a) All meetings of a state body shall be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body except as otherwise provided in this article. Additionally, all meetings shall include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services. Both a call-in and an internet-based service option shall be provided to the public.

(b) (1) This article does not prohibit a state body from holding an open or closed meeting by teleconference for the benefit of the public and state body. The meeting or proceeding held by teleconference shall otherwise comply with all applicable requirements or laws relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding, including the following:

- (A) The teleconferencing meeting shall comply with all requirements of this article applicable to other meetings.
- (B) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is required to be open to the public shall be audible to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.
- (C) If the state body elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference, other than what is required by subdivision (a) and such that all members of the body that are present at the meeting are teleconferencing into the meeting, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the rights of any party or member of the public appearing before the state body. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly pursuant to Section 11125.7 at each teleconference location.
- (D) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (E) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is closed to the public may not include the consideration of any agenda item being heard pursuant to Section 11125.5.
- (F) At least one member of the state body shall be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. meeting to ensure that members of the public are able to give public comment in person. This location must be publicly accessible and able to accommodate a reasonable amount of people, given the circumstances.
- (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, "teleconference" means a meeting of a state body, the members of which are at different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or both audio and video. This While this section requires that both an call-in and internet-based service are available to the public to join all open meetings that are held in-person, this section does

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not prohibit a state body from providing members of the public with additional locations in *or opportunities by* which the public may observe or address the state body by electronic means, through either audio or both audio and video.

(c) Instructions on how to attend the meeting via call-in or internet-based service shall be posted online along with the meeting agenda in an easily accessible location at least 72 hours before all regular meetings and at least 24 hours before all special meetings. In compliance with the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act(Chapter 17.5 (commencing with Section 7290) of Division 7 of Title 1), the posted instructions shall also be translated into all languages of which 5 percent of the population of the state body's jurisdiction speaks.

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- (d) The state body shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
- SEC. 9. Section 11125.7 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 11125.7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the state body shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the state body on each agenda item before or during the state body's discussion or consideration of the item. This section is not applicable if the agenda item has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of members of the state body at a public meeting where interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the state body. Every notice for a special meeting at which action is proposed to be taken on an item shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the state body concerning that item prior to action on the item. In addition, the notice requirement of Section 11125 shall not preclude the acceptance of testimony at meetings, other than emergency meetings, from members of the public if no action is taken by the state body at the same meeting on matters brought before the body by members of the public.
- (b) In compliance with subdivision (a) of Section 11123, public comment shall be made available for those attending any meeting

via call-in or internet-based service option. Persons commenting in person shall not have more time or in any other way be prioritized over persons commenting remotely via call-in or internet-based service.

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(c) The state body may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a) is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting the total amount of time allocated for public comment on particular issues and for each individual speaker.

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- (d) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), when a state body limits time for public comment the state body shall provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the state body. In compliance with the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Chapter 17.5 (commencing with Section 7290) of Division 7 of Title 1), translation services shall be provided for all languages of which 5 percent of the population of the state body's jurisdiction speaks. Should there be a limit on speaking time, persons commenting in another language shall be given twice as much time as those commenting in English in order to accommodate time for translation services. This is not required when simultaneous translation services are available.
- (2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the state body utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the state body to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.
- (e) The state body shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, programs, or services of the state body, or of the acts or omissions of the state body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.

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(f) This section is not applicable to closed sessions held pursuant to Section 11126.

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(g) This section is not applicable to decisions regarding proceedings held pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section

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11500), relating to administrative adjudication, or to the conduct of those proceedings.

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(*h*) This section is not applicable to hearings conducted by the California Victim Compensation Board pursuant to Sections 13963 and 13963.1.

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- (i) This section is not applicable to agenda items that involve decisions of the Public Utilities Commission regarding adjudicatory hearings held pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 1701) of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code. For all other agenda items, the commission shall provide members of the public, other than those who have already participated in the proceedings underlying the agenda item, an opportunity to directly address the commission before or during the commission's consideration of the item.
- SEC. 10. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district under this act would result from a legislative mandate that is within the scope of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.
- SEC. 11. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 4, 5, and 6 of this act, which amend Section 54953, 54954.2, and 54954.3 of the Government Code, further, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

The provisions of the act allow for greater public access through requiring specified entities to provide a call-in and internet-based service and instructions on how to access these options to the public for specified meetings and allow for greater accommodations for non-English speakers attending the meetings.

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# AB 646 (Low, D-Campbell; Coauthor: Senator Roth, D-Riverside) Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: expunged convictions.

Status/History: 3/23/2021 – Do pass from Assembly Committee on Business and Professions;

Referred to Assembly Committee on Appropriations

**Location:** 3/23/2021 – Assembly Committee on Appropriations

**Introduced:** 2/12/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs, which is composed of various boards, and authorizes a board to suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.

This bill would require a board within the department that has posted on its internet website that a person's license was revoked because the person was convicted of a crime, within 90 days of receiving an expungement order for the underlying offense from the person, if the person reapplies for licensure or is relicensed, to post notification of the expungement order and the date thereof on the board's internet website. The bill would require the board, on receiving an expungement order, if the person is not currently licensed and does not reapply for licensure, to remove within the same period the initial posting on its internet website that the person's license was revoked and information previously posted regarding arrests, charges, and convictions. The bill would require a person in either case to pay a \$50 fee to the board, unless another amount is determined by the board to be necessary to cover the cost of administering the bill's provisions.

**Affected Laws:** An act to add Section 493.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

**Staff Comment:** This bill would require the Board to make changes to the information posted on its website regarding disciplinary actions taken. Specifically, if the Board had revoked a license based on a criminal conviction and if the Board received notification that an expungement order was granted pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4, then the Board must do one of two things within 90 days of receiving the expungement order. The Board must either 1) post notification of the expungement order on its website if the person reapplies for licensure or is relicensed; or, 2) remove the initial posting of the revocation and any other postings relating to the conviction from its website if the person is not currently licensed and does not reapply for licensure. The bill would also require the person to pay a \$50 fee to the Board, unless another amount is determined by the Board to be necessary to cover the cost.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a "watch" position on AB 646.

## **Introduced by Assembly Member Low**

(Coauthor: Senator Roth)

February 12, 2021

An act to add Section 493.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 646, as introduced, Low. Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: expunged convictions.

Existing law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs, which is composed of various boards, and authorizes a board to suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued. Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of medicine by the Medical Board of California and requires the board to post certain historical information on current and former licensees, including felony and certain misdemeanor convictions. Existing law also requires the Medical Board of California, upon receipt of a certified copy of an expungement order from a current or former licensee, to post notification of the expungement order and the date thereof on its internet website.

This bill would require a board within the department that has posted on its internet website that a person's license was revoked because the person was convicted of a crime, within 90 days of receiving an expungement order for the underlying offense from the person, if the person reapplies for licensure or is relicensed, to post notification of the expungement order and the date thereof on the board's internet website. The bill would require the board, on receiving an expungement order, if the person is not currently licensed and does not reapply for licensure, to remove within the same period the initial posting on its internet website that the person's license was revoked and information previously posted regarding arrests, charges, and convictions. The bill would require a person in either case to pay a \$50 fee to the board, unless another amount is determined by the board to be necessary to cover the cost of administering the bill's provisions.

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 493.5 is added to the Business and 2 Professions Code, to read:
- 493.5. (a) A board within the department that has posted on its internet website that a person's license was revoked because the person was convicted of a crime, upon receiving from the person a certified copy of an expungement order granted pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code for the underlying offense, shall, within 90 days of receiving the expungement order, unless it is otherwise prohibited by law, or by other terms or conditions, do either of the following:
  - (1) If the person reapplies for licensure or has been relicensed, post notification of the expungement order and the date thereof on its internet website.

- (2) If the person is not currently licensed and does not reapply for licensure, remove the initial posting on its internet website that the person's license was revoked and information previously posted regarding arrests, charges, and convictions.
- (b) A person described in subdivision (a) shall pay to the board a fee in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50), unless another amount is determined by the board to be necessary to cover the administrative cost, ensuring that the amount does not exceed the reasonable cost of administering this section. The fee shall be deposited by the board into the appropriate fund and shall be available only upon appropriation by the Legislature.
- 25 (c) For purposes of this section, "board" means an entity listed 26 in Section 101.

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- (d) If any provision in this section conflicts with Section 2027,
   Section 2027 shall prevail.

## AB 885 (Quirk, D-Hayward) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

**Status/History:** 3/24/2021 – From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and rerefer to Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization. Read second time and amended.

**Location:** 3/24/2021 – Assembly

**Introduced:** 2/17/2021 **Amended:** 3/24/2021

**Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires that meetings of a state body be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend, with certain exceptions. Existing law provides that if the state body conducts meetings via teleconference, the portion of the meeting open to the public must be audible to the public at the location(s) specified in the notice. The law requires a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and requires each teleconference location to be accessible to the public.

This bill would require that the meeting be both audibly and visibly observable by the public at the location(s) specified in the notice. The bill would require a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to post an agenda at the designated primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where members of the public may physically attend the meeting and participate. The bill would additionally make technical, non-substantive changes.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Sections 11123 and 11123.5 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

**Staff Comment:** Current law allows the Board to conduct meetings via teleconference if certain conditions are met. One of those requirements is that the meetings be audible to members of the public at all noticed locations. This bill would change the law to require that the meetings be both audible and visually observable by members of the public at all noticed locations.

The law currently requires that, for teleconference meetings, all locations from which Board Members will attend (participate in) the meeting be listed on the notice and open to the public so that the public may participate in the meeting at any of the locations. This bill would remove the requirement that all locations be listed on the notice and allow for only one physical location to be noticed and that location must be open to the public to attend and participate in the meeting. Because this change in the law limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies, the law

must be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. The bill contains the following statement of legislative findings:

The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which amends Section 11123 of the Government Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, including from the member's private home or hotel room, this act protects the personal, private information of public officials and their families while preserving the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

This bill has not yet been scheduled for hearing. Three other bills introduced this session (AB 29, AB 339, and AB 1291) also propose to make various changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a "watch" position on AB 885.

## AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

#### ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 885

# **Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk**

February 17, 2021

An act to amend Sections 11123 and 11123.5 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 885, as amended, Quirk. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene Act), requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body, as defined, be open and public, and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body, except as provided. The Bagley-Keene Act, among other things, requires a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to make the portion of the meeting that is required to be open to the public audible to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. The Bagley-Keene Act requires a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and requires each teleconference location to be accessible to the public. That law authorizes any meeting of a state body that is an advisory board, advisory commission, advisory committee, advisory subcommittee, or similar multimember advisory body to hold an open meeting by teleconference if the meeting complies with the requirements of the act, except as provided. Existing law requires that when a member of a multimember state advisory body participates remotely the body provide a means by which the public may remotely hear audio of the meeting or remotely observe the meeting. Existing law requires a multimember state advisory body to end or adjourn a meeting if it discovers that a required means of remote access has failed during the meeting, and, if the meeting is to adjourn and reconvene on the same day, that law requires the body to communicate, among other things, how a member of the public may hear audio of the meeting or observe the meeting.

This bill would require a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to make the portion that is required to be open to the public both audibly and visually observable. The bill would require a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to post an agenda at the designated primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where *members of the public may physically attend the meeting and participate.* The bill would extend the above requirements of meetings of multimember advisory bodies that are held by teleconference to meetings of all multimember state bodies. The bill would require a multimember state body to provide a means by which the public may both audibly and visually remotely observe a meeting if a member of that body participates remotely. The bill would further require any body that is to adjourn and reconvene a meeting on the same day to communicate how a member of the public may both audibly and visually observe the meeting. The bill would also make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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 11123 of the Government Code is amended to read:

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11123. (a) All meetings of a state body shall be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body except as otherwise provided in this article.

- (b) (1) This article does not prohibit a state body from holding an open or closed meeting by teleconference for the benefit of the public and state body. The meeting or proceeding held by teleconference shall otherwise comply with all applicable requirements or laws relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding, including the following:
- (A) The teleconferencing meeting shall comply with all requirements of this article applicable to other meetings.
- (B) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is required to be open to the public shall be both audibly and visually observable to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.
- (C) If the state body elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference, it shall post—agendas an agenda at—all teleconference locations the designated primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where members of the public may physically attend the meeting and participate, and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the rights of any party or member of the public appearing before the state body. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body via teleconference directly pursuant to Section 11125.7 at each teleconference location.
- (D) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (E) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is closed to the public may not include the consideration of any agenda item being heard pursuant to Section 11125.5.
- (F) At least one member of the state body shall be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.
- (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, "teleconference" means a meeting of a state body, the members of which are at different locations, connected by electronic means, through both audio and video. This section does not prohibit a state body from providing members of the public with additional locations in which the public

may observe or address the state body by electronic means, through either audio or both audio and video.

- (c) The state body shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
- SEC. 2. Section 11123.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 11123.5. (a) In addition to the authorization to hold a meeting by teleconference pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 11123, any state body that is a board, commission, committee, subcommittee, or similar multimember body may hold an open meeting by teleconference as described in this section, provided the meeting complies with all of the section's requirements and, except as set forth in this section, it also complies with all other applicable requirements of this article.
- (b) A member of a state body as described in subdivision (a) who participates in a teleconference meeting from a remote location subject to this section's requirements shall be listed in the minutes of the meeting.
- (c) The state body shall provide notice to the public at least 24 hours before the meeting that identifies any member who will participate remotely by posting the notice on its internet website and by emailing notice to any person who has requested notice of meetings of the state body under this article. The location of a member of a state body who will participate remotely is not required to be disclosed in the public notice or email and need not be accessible to the public. The notice of the meeting shall also identify the primary physical meeting location designated pursuant to subdivision (e).
- (d) This section does not affect the requirement prescribed by this article that the state body post an agenda of a meeting at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. The agenda shall include information regarding the physical meeting location designated pursuant to subdivision (e), but is not required to disclose information regarding any remote location.
- (e) A state body described in subdivision (a) shall designate the primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where members of the public may physically attend the meeting and participate. A quorum of the members of the state body shall be in attendance *via teleconference or in person physically* at the

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primary physical meeting location, and members of the state body participating remotely shall—not count towards establishing a quorum. All decisions taken during a meeting by teleconference shall be by rollcall vote. The state body shall post the agenda at the primary physical meeting location, but need not post the agenda at a remote location.

- (f) When a member of a state body described in subdivision (a) participates remotely in a meeting subject to this section's requirements, the state body shall provide a means by which the public may remotely observe the meeting's proceedings, both audibly and visually, including the members of the state body participating remotely. The applicable teleconference phone number or internet website, or other information indicating how the public can access the meeting remotely, shall be in the 24-hour notice described in subdivision (a) that is available to the public.
- (g) Upon discovering that a means of remote access required by subdivision (f) has failed during a meeting, the state body described in subdivision (a) shall end or adjourn the meeting in accordance with Section 11128.5. In addition to any other requirements that may apply, the state body shall provide notice of the meeting's end or adjournment on its internet website and by email to any person who has requested notice of meetings of the state body under this article. If the meeting will be adjourned and reconvened on the same day, further notice shall be provided by an automated message on a telephone line posted on the state body's agenda, or by a similar means, that will communicate when the state body intends to reconvene the meeting and how a member of the public may observe the meeting, both audibly and visually.
  - (h) For purposes of this section:

- (1) "Participate remotely" means participation in a meeting at a location other than the physical location designated in the agenda of the meeting.
- (2) "Remote location" means a location other than the primary physical location designated in the agenda of a meeting.
  - (3) "Teleconference" has the same meaning as in Section 11123.
- (i) This section does not limit or affect the ability of a state body to hold a teleconference meeting under another provision of this article.
- 39 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of 40 this act, which amends Section 11123 of the Government Code,

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imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings
of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies
within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California
Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the
Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest
protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that
interest:
By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the

By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, including from the member's private home or hotel room, this act protects the personal, private information of public officials and their families while preserving the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

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# AB 1030 (Chen, R-Brea) Professional Land Surveyors' Act and Professional Engineers Act

**Status/History:** 3/4/2021 – Referred to the Assembly Committee on Business & Professions.

**Location:** 3/4/2021 – Assembly Committee on Business & Professions

**Introduced:** 2/18/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** This bill would amend Sections 6731.1 and 8726 of the Business and Professions Code, which are the sections that define civil engineering surveying and land surveying. The bill would also remove the subdivisions from Sections 6738 and 8729 that address non-engineering businesses and nonland surveying businesses contracting with someone legally authorized to perform professional engineering or land surveying, respectively. Furthermore, the bill would make conforming changes to other sections of the law based on the amendments to Sections 6738 and 8729.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Sections 6731.1, 6738, 6787, 8726, 8729, and 8792 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

**Staff Comment:** This bill is sponsored by the California and Nevada Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors Association (CELSA). It is similar to AB 3334 from the 2020 legislative session. AB 3334 did not move forward last year due to the need to prioritize bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of the language proposed in AB 1030 is language that was developed during discussions between CELSA, Board staff, and the Board during consideration of AB 3334. The only language in AB 1030 that the Board has not agreed to is the inclusion of the term "remote sensing," and a definition of that term. This term, and accompanying definition, were included in subdivision (b) in AB 3334, and the Board was opposed to it. In discussions, it was suggested that the term did not belong in subdivision (b) and might be more appropriate in subdivision (f). However, the definition of the term was not discussed.

Board staff still has concerns on whether the inclusion of the term "remote sensing" is necessary and with how that term is defined. Remote sensing is a broad term used to describe many types of analyses in the scientific communities and can be used as a tool or technology to perform land surveying work. For example, according to the U.S. Geological Survey website, remote sensing can be used, through cameras on satellites, to make images of temperature changes of the ocean and to track clouds to help predict the weather; neither of these activities would, or should, be considered the practice of land surveying that can be performed only by someone licensed as a land surveyor. It is also recognized that the acquisition of topographic data by photogrammetric methods can be considered as a form of remote sensing and is already included under section 8726. In the past, the Board has expressed that it is not appropriate to include tools or technology in the definition of the practice of land surveying, especially when the tools or technology can and are used by other professions in ways that are unrelated to land surveying. As such, Board staff believes that the term "remote sensing," and its associated definition as proposed, should not be included in Section 8726.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends the Board take a position of "oppose unless amended" on AB 1030 and request that the term "remote sensing" and the definition of "remote sensing" be removed from subdivision (f) of Section 8726.

# **Introduced by Assembly Member Chen**

February 18, 2021

An act to amend Sections 6731.1, 6738, 6787, 8726, 8729, and 8792 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1030, as introduced, Chen. Professional Land Surveyors' Act and Professional Engineers Act.

(1) The Professional Engineers Act and the Professional Land Surveyors' Act provide for the licensure and regulation of professional engineers and land surveyors by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. Under those acts, a land surveyor includes a person who engages in specified practices, and civil engineering is defined to include a person who locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces the alignment or elevation for any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, as defined, determines the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry, or engages in geodetic or cadastral surveying, as defined.

This bill would include within the practices that subject a person to those acts, with regard to the practice of identifying the location, alignment, or elevation for any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, laying out the reference points or lines through the use of mathematical or physical measurements. The bill would expand the practice of land surveying and civil engineering to

include determining the benthic surface below water bodies and the measuring for volumetric calculations of earthwork. The bill, with respect to the practice of making determinations regarding the position of objects, would expand that practice to include such a determination made by applying the principles of mathematics or the use of photogrammetric methods. The bill would further revise that practice so that the determination regarding the position of objects is made regarding either manmade or natural fixed objects, instead of fixed objects. The bill would modify the definition of geodetic surveying for purposes of the Professional Land Surveyors' Act to mean performing surveys by using techniques or methods of 3-dimensional geospatial data acquisitions, and make conforming changes to that effect. The bill would also, for purposes of that act, provide that a land surveyor includes a person who does or offers to do remote sensing, as defined.

(2) The Professional Land Surveyors' Act provides that it does not prevent an individual or business engaged in any line of endeavor, other than the practice of land surveying, from employing or contracting with a licensed land surveyor or a licensed civil engineer to perform the respective land surveying services incidental to the conduct of business. The Professional Engineers Act provides that it does not prevent an individual or business engaged in any line of endeavor other than the practice of civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering from employing or contracting with a licensed civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer to perform the respective engineering services incidental to the conduct of business.

This bill would delete those provisions and make conforming changes.

(3) Existing law makes any violation of the Professional Engineers Act or the Professional Land Surveyors' Act a misdemeanor.

By expanding the scope of practices subject to the Professional Engineers Act and the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

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SECTION 1. Section 6731.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

- 6731.1. Civil engineering also includes the practice or offer to practice, either in a public or private capacity, all of the following:
- (a) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces the alignment or elevation for retraces, or lays out, through the use of mathematical or physical measurements, the reference points or lines for the location, alignment, or elevation of any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, as described in Section 6731.
- (b) Determines the configuration or contour of the earth's surface surface, the benthic surface below water bodies, the measuring for volumetric calculations of earthwork, or the position of manmade or natural fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of trigonometry or photogrammetry. mathematics or by using photogrammetric methods.
- (c) Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data in the performance of the activities described in subdivisions (a) and (b).
- (d) Renders a statement regarding the accuracy of maps or measured survey data pursuant to subdivisions (a), (b), and (c).
- SEC. 2. Section 6738 of the Business and Professions Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 150 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended to read:
- 6738. (a) This chapter does not prohibit one or more civil, electrical, or mechanical engineers from practicing or offering to practice, within the scope of their license, civil (including geotechnical and structural), electrical, or mechanical engineering as a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership, firm, or corporation (hereinafter called business), if all of the following requirements are met:
- (1) A civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer currently licensed in this state is an owner, partner, or officer in charge of the engineering practice of the business.
- (2) All civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services are performed by, or under the responsible charge of, a professional

engineer licensed in the appropriate branch of professional engineering.

- (3) If the business name of a California engineering business contains the name of any person, then that person shall be licensed as a professional engineer, a licensed land surveyor, a licensed architect, or a geologist registered under the Geologist and Geophysicist Act (Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 7800)). Any offer, promotion, or advertisement by the business that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of an individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.
- (b) An out-of-state business with a branch office in this state shall meet the requirements of subdivision (a) and shall have an owner, partner, or officer who is in charge of the engineering work in the branch in this state, who is licensed in this state, and who is physically present at the branch office in this state on a regular basis. However, the name of the business may contain the name of any person not licensed in this state if that person is appropriately registered or licensed in another state. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the names of the individuals in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.
- (c) The business name of a California engineering business may be a fictitious name. However, if the fictitious name includes the name of any person, the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be met.
- (d) A person not licensed under this chapter may also be a partner or an officer of a civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering business if the requirements of subdivision (a) are met. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a person who is not licensed under this chapter to be the sole owner of a civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering business, unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- (e) This chapter does not prevent an individual or business engaged in any line of endeavor other than the practice of civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering from employing or contracting with a licensed civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer

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to perform the respective engineering services incidental to the conduct of business.

<del>(f)</del>

(e) This section shall not prevent the use of the name of any business engaged in rendering civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services, including the use by any lawful successor or survivor, that lawfully was in existence on December 31, 1987. However, the business is subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

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- (f) A business engaged in rendering civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services may use in its name the name of a deceased or retired person provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) The person's name had been used in the name of the business, or a predecessor in interest of the business, prior to and after the death or retirement of the person.
- (2) The person shall have been an owner, partner, or officer of the business, or an owner, partner, or officer of the predecessor in interest of the business.
- (3) The person shall have been licensed as a professional engineer, or a land surveyor, or an architect, or a geologist, (A) by the appropriate licensing board if that person is operating a place of business or practice in this state, or (B) by the applicable state board if no place of business existed in this state.
- (4) The person, if retired, has consented to the use of the name and does not permit the use of the name in the title of another professional engineering business in this state during the period of the consent. However, the retired person may use his or her their name as the name of a new or purchased business if it is not identical in every respect to that person's name as used in the former business.
- 33 (5) The business shall be subject to the provisions of paragraphs 34 (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

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(g) This section does not affect the provisions of Sections 6731.2 and 8726.1.

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(h) A current organization record form shall be filed with the board for all businesses engaged in rendering civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services.

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- (i) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 3. Section 6738 of the Business and Professions Code, as amended by Section 2 of Chapter 150 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended to read:
- 6738. (a) This chapter does not prohibit one or more civil, electrical, or mechanical engineers from practicing or offering to practice within the scope of their license civil (including geotechnical and structural), electrical, or mechanical engineering as a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, or corporation (hereinafter called business), if all of the following requirements are met:
- (1) A civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer currently licensed in this state is an owner, partner, or officer in charge of the engineering practice of the business.
- (2) All civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services are performed by, or under the responsible charge of, a professional engineer licensed in the appropriate branch of professional engineering.
- (3) If the business name of a California engineering business contains the name of any person, then that person shall be licensed as a professional engineer, a licensed land surveyor, a licensed architect, or a geologist registered under the Geologist and Geophysicist Act (Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 7800)). Any offer, promotion, or advertisement by the business that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of an individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.
- (b) An out-of-state business with a branch office in this state shall meet the requirements of subdivision (a) and shall have an owner, partner, or officer who is in charge of the engineering work in the branch in this state, who is licensed in this state, and who is physically present at the branch office in this state on a regular basis. However, the name of the business may contain the name of any person not licensed in this state if that person is

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appropriately registered or licensed in another state. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the names of the individuals in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.

- (c) The business name of a California engineering business may be a fictitious name. However, if the fictitious name includes the name of any person, the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be met.
- (d) A person not licensed under this chapter may also be a partner or an officer of a civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering business if the requirements of subdivision (a) are met. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a person who is not licensed under this chapter to be the sole owner of a civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering business, unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- (e) This chapter does not prevent an individual or business engaged in any line of endeavor other than the practice of civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering from employing or contracting with a licensed civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer to perform the respective engineering services incidental to the conduct of business.

<del>(f)</del>

(e) This section shall not prevent the use of the name of any business engaged in rendering civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services, including the use by any lawful successor or survivor, that lawfully was in existence on December 31, 1987. However, the business is subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

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- (f) A business engaged in rendering civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services may use in its name the name of a deceased or retired person provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) The person's name had been used in the name of the business, or a predecessor in interest of the business, prior to and after the death or retirement of the person.

- (2) The person shall have been an owner, partner, or officer of the business, or an owner, partner, or officer of the predecessor in interest of the business.
- (3) The person shall have been licensed as a professional engineer, or a land surveyor, or an architect, or a geologist, (A) by the appropriate licensing board if that person is operating a place of business or practice in this state, or (B) by the applicable state board if no place of business existed in this state.
- (4) The person, if retired, has consented to the use of the name and does not permit the use of the name in the title of another professional engineering business in this state during the period of the consent. However, the retired person may use his or her their name as the name of a new or purchased business if it is not identical in every respect to that person's name as used in the former business.
- (5) The business shall be subject to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

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(g) This section does not affect the provisions of Sections 6731.2 and 8726.1.

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(h) A current organization record form shall be filed with the board for all businesses engaged in rendering civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering services.

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- (i) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.
- SEC. 4. Section 6787 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 6787. A person who does any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor:
- (a) Unless the person is exempt from licensure under this chapter, practice practices or offer offers to practice civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering in this state according to the provisions of this chapter without legal authorization.
- (b) Present-Presents or attempt attempts to file as the person's own the certificate of licensure of a licensed professional engineer unless they are the person named on the certificate of licensure.
- 38 (c) Give Gives false evidence of any kind to the board, or to any board member, in obtaining a certificate of licensure.

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(d) Impersonate-Impersonates or use uses the seal, signature, or license number of a licensed professional engineer or use uses a false license number.

- (e) <del>Use-</del>*Uses* an expired, suspended, surrendered, or revoked license.
- (f) Represent Represents themselves as, or uses the title of, a licensed or registered civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer, or any other title whereby that person could be considered as practicing or offering to practice civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering in any of its branches, unless they are correspondingly qualified by licensure as a civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer under this chapter.
- (g) Unless appropriately licensed, manages, or conduct conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering work is solicited, performed, or practiced, except as authorized pursuant to-subdivision (e) of Section 6738 and Section 8726.1.
- (h) Use—Uses the title, or any combination of that title, of "professional engineer," "licensed engineer," "registered engineer," or the branch titles specified in Section 6732, or the authority titles specified in Sections 6736 and 6736.1, or "engineer-in-training," or makes use of any abbreviation of that title that might lead to the belief that the person is a licensed engineer, is authorized to use the titles specified in Section 6736 or 6736.1, or holds a certificate as an engineer-in-training, without being licensed, authorized, or certified as required by this chapter.
- (i) Use-Uses the title "consulting engineer" without being licensed as required by this chapter or without being authorized to use that title pursuant to legislation enacted at the 1963, 1965, or 1968 Regular Session.
  - (j) Violate Violates any provision of this chapter.
- SEC. 5. Section 8726 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 8726. A person, including any person employed by the state or by a city, county, or city and county within the state, practices land surveying within the meaning of this chapter who, either in a public or private capacity, does or offers to do any one or more of the following:
- (a) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces the alignment or elevation for retraces, or lays out, through the use

of mathematical or physical measurements, the reference points or lines for the location, alignment, or elevation of any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, as described in Section 6731.

- (b) Determines the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, the benthic surface below water bodies, the measuring for volumetric calculations of earthwork, or the position of manmade or natural fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry. by using photogrammetric methods.
- (c) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces any property line or boundary of any parcel of land, right-of-way, easement, or alignment of those lines or boundaries.
- (d) Makes any survey for the subdivision or resubdivision of any tract of land. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "subdivision" or "resubdivision" shall be defined to include, but not be limited to, the definition in the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code) or the Subdivided Lands Law (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 11000) of Part 2 of Division 4 of this eode). 4).
- (e) By the use of the principles of land surveying determines the position for any monument or reference point which marks a property line, boundary, or corner, or sets, resets, or replaces any monument or reference point.
- (f) Geodetic-or surveying, cadastral-surveying, or remote sensing. As
- (1) As used in this chapter, geodetic surveying means performing surveys, by using techniques or methods of three-dimensional geospatial data acquisition in which account is taken of the figure and size of the earth to determine or predetermine the horizontal or vertical positions of fixed objects thereon or related thereto, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations for use in the practice of land surveying or for stating the position of geospatial establishment of three-dimensional positions of fixed objects, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations by California Coordinate System-coordinates. coordinates in accordance with Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 8801) of Division 8 of the Public Resources Code.

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(2) For purposes of this subdivision, "remote sensing" means the detecting, collection, processing, and analysis of data that will determine the dimensions of physical objects, or otherwise using various acquisition methods intended to or resulting in the determination of the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth.

- (g) Determines the information shown or to be shown on any map or document prepared or furnished in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f). (a) to (f), inclusive.
- (h) Indicates, in any capacity or in any manner, by the use of the title "land surveyor" or by any other title or by any other representation that he or she the person practices or offers to practice land surveying in any of its branches.
- (i) Procures or offers to procure land surveying work for himself, herself, themselves or others.
- (j) Manages, or conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which land surveying work is solicited, performed, or practiced.
- (k) Coordinates the work of professional, technical, or special consultants in connection with the activities authorized by this chapter.
- (*l*) Determines the information shown or to be shown within the description of any deed, trust deed, or other title document prepared for the purpose of describing the limit of real property in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a) to (f), inclusive.
- (m) Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data in the performance of the activities described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (k), and (l).
- (n) Renders a statement regarding the accuracy of maps or measured survey data.

Any department or agency of the state or any city, county, or city and county that has an unregistered person in responsible charge of land surveying work on January 1, 1986, shall be exempt from the requirement that the person be licensed as a land surveyor until the person currently in responsible charge is replaced.

The review, approval, or examination by a governmental entity of documents prepared or performed pursuant to this section shall be done by, or under the direct supervision of, a person authorized to practice land surveying.

- SEC. 6. Section 8729 of the Business and Professions Code, as amended by Section 3 of Chapter 150 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended to read:
- 8729. (a) This chapter does not prohibit one or more licensed land surveyors or civil engineers licensed in this state prior to 1982 (hereinafter called civil engineers) from practicing or offering to practice, within the scope of their licensure, land surveying as a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership, firm, or corporation (hereinafter called business), if the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) A land surveyor or civil engineer currently licensed in the state is an owner, partner, or officer in charge of the land surveying practice of the business.
- (2) All land surveying services are performed by or under the responsible charge of a land surveyor or civil engineer.
- (3) If the business name of a California land surveying business contains the name of a person, then that person shall be licensed by the board as a land surveyor or licensed by the board in any year as a civil engineer. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement by the business that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of the individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license discipline of each individual named.
- (b) An out-of-state business with a branch office in this state shall meet the requirements of subdivision (a) and shall have an owner, partner, or officer who is in charge of the land surveying work in this state, who is licensed in this state, and who is physically present at the branch office in this state on a regular basis. However, the name of the business may contain the name of a person not licensed in this state, if that person is appropriately licensed or registered in another state. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of the individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.
- (c) The business name of a California land surveying business may be a fictitious name. However, if the fictitious name includes

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the names of any person, the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be met.

- (d) A person not licensed under this chapter or licensed as a civil engineer in this state prior to 1982 may also be a partner or an officer of a land surveying business if the conditions of subdivision (a) are satisfied. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a person who is not licensed under this chapter or licensed as a civil engineer in this state prior to 1982 to be the sole owner or office of a land surveying business, unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- (e) This chapter does not prevent an individual or business engaged in any line of endeavor, other than the practice of land surveying, from employing or contracting with a licensed land surveyor or a licensed civil engineer to perform the respective land surveying services incidental to the conduct of business.

<del>(f)</del>

(e) This section shall not prevent the use of the name of any business engaged in rendering land surveying services, including the use by any lawful successor or survivor, that lawfully was in existence on June 1, 1941. However, the business is subject to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

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- (f) A business engaged in rendering land surveying services may use in its name the name of a deceased or retired person if the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) The person's name had been used in the name of the business, or a predecessor in interest of the business, prior to the death or retirement of the person.
- (2) The person shall have been an owner, partner, or officer of the business, or an owner, partner, or officer of the predecessor in interest of the business.
- (3) The person shall have been licensed as a land surveyor or a civil engineer by the board, if operating a place of business or practice in this state, or by an applicable state board in the event no place of business existed in this state.
- (4) The person, if retired, has consented to the use of the name and does not permit the use of the name in the title of another land surveying business in this state during the period of that consent, except that a retired person may use his or her their name as the name of a new or purchased business, if that business is not

- 1 identical in every respect to that person's name as used in the 2 former business.
  - (5) The business shall be subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).
- 5 <del>(h)</del>

- 6 (g) This section does not affect Sections 6731.2 and 8726.1.
  - <del>(i)</del>
  - (h) A current organization record form shall be filed with the board for all businesses engaged in rendering professional land surveying services.
  - <del>(j)</del>
    - (i) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.
    - SEC. 7. Section 8729 of the Business and Professions Code, as amended by Section 4 of Chapter 150 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended to read:
    - 8729. (a) This chapter does not prohibit one or more licensed land surveyors or civil engineers licensed in this state prior to 1982 (hereinafter called civil engineers) from practicing or offering to practice within the scope of their licensure, land surveying as a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, or corporation (hereinafter called business), if the following conditions are satisfied:
    - (1) A land surveyor or civil engineer currently licensed in the state is an owner, partner, or officer in charge of the land surveying practice of the business.
    - (2) All land surveying services are performed by or under the responsible charge of a land surveyor or civil engineer.
    - (3) If the business name of a California land surveying business contains the name of a person, then that person shall be licensed by the board as a land surveyor or licensed by the board in any year as a civil engineer. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement by the business that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of the individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license discipline of each individual named.
    - (b) An out-of-state business with a branch office in this state shall meet the requirements of subdivision (a) and shall have an owner, partner, or officer who is in charge of the land surveying work in this state, who is licensed in this state, and who is physically present at the branch office in this state on a regular

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basis. However, the name of the business may contain the name of a person not licensed in this state, if that person is appropriately licensed or registered in another state. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of the individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.

- (c) The business name of a California land surveying business may be a fictitious name. However, if the fictitious name includes the names of any person, the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be met.
- (d) A person not licensed under this chapter or licensed as a civil engineer in this state prior to 1982 may also be a partner or an officer of a land surveying business if the conditions of subdivision (a) are satisfied. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a person who is not licensed under this chapter or licensed as a civil engineer in this state prior to 1982 to be the sole owner or office of a land surveying business, unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- (e) This chapter does not prevent an individual or business engaged in any line of endeavor, other than the practice of land surveying, from employing or contracting with a licensed land surveyor or a licensed civil engineer to perform the respective land surveying services incidental to the conduct of business.

<del>(f)</del>

(e) This section shall not prevent the use of the name of any business engaged in rendering land surveying services, including the use by any lawful successor or survivor, that lawfully was in existence on June 1, 1941. However, the business is subject to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

<del>(g)</del>

- (f) A business engaged in rendering land surveying services may use in its name the name of a deceased or retired person if the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) The person's name had been used in the name of the business, or a predecessor in interest of the business, prior to the death or retirement of the person.
- (2) The person shall have been an owner, partner, or officer of the business, or an owner, partner, or officer of the predecessor in interest of the business.

- (3) The person shall have been licensed as a land surveyor or a civil engineer by the board, if operating a place of business or practice in this state, or by an applicable state board in the event no place of business existed in this state.
- (4) The person, if retired, has consented to the use of the name and does not permit the use of the name in the title of another land surveying business in this state during the period of that consent, except that a retired person may use his or her their name as the name of a new or purchased business, if that business is not identical in every respect to that person's name as used in the former business.
- (5) The business shall be subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

14 <del>(h)</del>

(g) This section does not affect Sections 6731.2 and 8726.1.

<del>(i)</del>

(h) A current organization record form shall be filed with the board for all businesses engaged in rendering professional land surveying services.

20 <del>(i)</del>

- (i) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.
- SEC. 8. Section 8792 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 8792. A person who does any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor:
- (a) Unless the person is exempt from licensure under this chapter, practices, or offers to practice, land surveying in this state without legal authorization.
- (b) Presents as their own the license of a professional land surveyor unless they are the person named on the license.
- (c) Attempts to file as their own any record of survey under the license of a professional land surveyor.
- (d) Gives false evidence of any kind to the board, or to any board member, in obtaining a license.
- (e) Impersonates or uses the seal, signature, or license number of a professional land surveyor or who uses a false license number.
  - (f) Uses an expired, suspended, surrendered, or revoked license.
- (g) Represents themselves as, or uses the title of, professional land surveyor, or any other title whereby that person could be considered as practicing or offering to practice land surveying,

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unless the person is correspondingly qualified by licensure as a land surveyor under this chapter.

- (h) Uses the title, or any combination of that title, of "professional land surveyor," "licensed land surveyor," "land surveyor," or the titles specified in Sections 8751 and 8775, or "land surveyor-in-training," or who makes use of any abbreviation of that title that might lead to the belief that the person is a licensed land surveyor or holds a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training, without being licensed or certified as required by this chapter.
- (i) Unless appropriately licensed, manages, or conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which land surveying work is solicited, performed, or practiced, except as authorized pursuant to Section 6731.2 and subdivision (e) of Section 8729. 6731.2.
  - (j) Violates any provision of this chapter.

SEC. 9. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution.

# AB 1129 (Frazier, D-Fairfield) Home Inspectors License Law.

**Status/History:** 3/4/2021 – Re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Business & Professions.

**Location:** 3/4/2021 – Assembly Business & Professions Committee

**Introduced:** 2/18/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/19/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law regulates a person who performs certain home inspections for a fee in connection with a transfer of real property. Existing law provides that it is the duty of a home inspector who is not licensed as a general contractor, structural pest control operator, or architect, or registered as a professional engineer to conduct a home inspection with the degree of care that a reasonably prudent home inspector would exercise.

This bill, commencing January 1, 2023, would enact the Home Inspectors License Act, which would revise and recast the provisions of existing law, and would make various substantive changes. The bill would establish the Bureau of Home Inspectors in the Department of Consumer Affairs.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend, repeal, and add Sections 101 and 205 of, to add Sections 7199.1 and 7199.8 to, and to add Chapter 9.3 (commencing with Section 7193) to Division 3 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to home inspectors.

**Staff Comment:** This bill is being brought to the Board's attention for informational purposes.

Currently, the regulation of persons who perform certain home inspections is codified in the Contractors License Law and falls under the authority of the Contractors State License Board. This bill, effective January 1, 2023, would create a new Home Inspectors License Act under the authority of the newly-established Bureau of Home Inspectors in the Department of Consumer Affairs. This new act would contain a section that makes clear that home inspectors who are not licensed as professional engineers are not allowed to perform any analysis of the systems, components, or structural integrity of a dwelling that would constitute the practice of civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering; that home inspectors are not exempt from the Professional Engineers Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of the Business and Professions Code); and that this new law would not apply to a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor acting pursuant to their professional license.

Staff Recommendation: No action needed at this time.

## **Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier**

February 18, 2021

An act to amend, repeal, and add Sections 101 and 205 of, to add Sections 7199.1 and 7199.8 to, and to add Chapter 9.3 (commencing with Section 7193) to Division 3 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to home inspectors.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1129, as introduced, Frazier. Home Inspectors License Law.

Existing law regulates a person who performs certain home inspections for a fee in connection with a transfer of real property. Existing law provides that it is the duty of a home inspector who is not licensed as a general contractor, structural pest control operator, or architect, or registered as a professional engineer to conduct a home inspection with the degree of care that a reasonably prudent home inspector would exercise. Under existing law, contractual provisions that purport to waive this duty, or limit the liability of the home inspector to the cost of the home inspection report, are contrary to public policy and invalid. Existing law prohibits commencement of a legal action for breach of duty arising from a home inspection report more than 4 years from the date of the inspection. Under existing law, certain activities by a home inspector or a company that employs a home inspector constitute unfair business practices.

This bill, commencing January 1, 2023, would enact the Home Inspectors License Act, which would revise and recast those provisions, and would make various substantive changes. The bill would establish the Bureau of Home Inspectors in the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The bill would also establish the position of Chief of the bureau and would require the chief to administer the licensing program for home inspectors, as provided. The bill would delete the provisions concerning a home inspector's duty of care and unlawful business practices. The bill would authorize the chief to investigate the actions of any applicant for a home inspector license or a home inspector within the state and to administer specified disciplinary actions if the applicant or licensee commits an act or omission constituting cause for disciplinary action, including a willful departure in any material respect, except as provided, from accepted standards of practice and codes of ethics. The bill would require a complaint against a licensee alleging commission of any act or omission that may constitute grounds for legal action to be filed in writing with the chief within 4 years of the alleged act or omission.

This bill would establish the Home Inspectors License Fund, and would require all fees, fines, and penalties collected pursuant to these provisions to be deposited into the fund, which the bill would make available for administration of these provisions, upon appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would authorize the bureau to set reasonable fees according to a specified fee schedule.

This bill would require the chief to adopt regulations governing the process of applying for a license and any conditions on the maintenance of a license once issued, as provided. The bill would prohibit a person from acting or holding oneself out as a home inspector, by advertisement or otherwise, unless that person is licensed in accordance with the act, except as specified. The bill would make a willful violation of this provision a public offense punishable by imprisonment, by a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or by both imprisonment and fine. By creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would make additional conforming changes.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 101 of the Business and Professions Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 101. The department is comprised of the following:
- 4 (a) The Dental Board of California.
- 5 (b) The Medical Board of California.
- 6 (c) The State Board of Optometry.
  - (d) The California State Board of Pharmacy.
- 8 (e) The Veterinary Medical Board.
- 9 (f) The California Board of Accountancy.
- 10 (g) The California Architects Board.
- 11 (h) The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.
- 12 (i) The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and
- 13 Geologists.

- 14 (j) The Contractors State License Board.
- 15 (k) The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.
- 16 (1) The Bureau of Household Goods and Services.
- 17 (m) The Board of Registered Nursing.
- 18 (n) The Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- 19 (o) The State Athletic Commission.
- 20 (p) The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau.
- 21 (q) The Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.
- (r) The Court Reporters Board of California.
- 23 (s) The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric
- 24 Technicians.
- 25 (t) The Landscape Architects Technical Committee.
- 26 (u) The Division of Investigation.
- (v) The Bureau of Automotive Repair.
- 28 (w) The Respiratory Care Board of California.
- 29 (x) The Acupuncture Board.
- 30 (y) The Board of Psychology.
- 31 (z) The Podiatric Medical Board of California.
- 32 (aa) The Physical Therapy Board of California.
- 33 (ab) The Arbitration Review Program.
- 34 (ac) The Physician Assistant Board.
- 35 (ad) The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and
- 36 Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
- 37 (ae) The California Board of Occupational Therapy.
- 38 (af) The Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

- 1 (ag) The Naturopathic Medicine Committee.
- 2 (ah) The Dental Hygiene Board of California.
- 3 (ai) The Professional Fiduciaries Bureau.
- 4 (aj) The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.
- 5 (ak) The Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers.
  - (al) The Structural Pest Control Board.
- 7 (am) The Bureau of Cannabis Control.
- 8 (an) Any other boards, offices, or officers subject to its 9 jurisdiction by law.
- 10 (ao) This section shall-become operative on July 1, 2018. remain 11 operative until January 1, 2023, and as of that date is repealed.
- 12 SEC. 2. Section 101 is added to the Business and Professions
- 13 Code, to read:

- 14 101. The department is comprised of the following:
- 15 (a) The Dental Board of California.
- 16 (b) The Medical Board of California.
- 17 (c) The State Board of Optometry.
- 18 (d) The California State Board of Pharmacy.
- 19 (e) The Veterinary Medical Board.
- 20 (f) The California Board of Accountancy.
- 21 (g) The California Architects Board.
- 22 (h) The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.
- 23 (i) The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and 24 Geologists.
- 25 (j) The Contractors State License Board.
- 26 (k) The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.
- 27 (l) The Bureau of Household Goods and Services.
- 28 (m) The Board of Registered Nursing.
- 29 (n) The Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- 30 (o) The State Athletic Commission.
- 31 (p) The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau.
- 32 (q) The Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.
- 33 (r) The Court Reporters Board of California.
- 34 (s) The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric
- 35 Technicians.
- 36 (t) The Landscape Architects Technical Committee.
- 37 (u) The Division of Investigation.
- 38 (v) The Bureau of Automotive Repair.
- 39 (w) The Respiratory Care Board of California.
- 40 (x) The Acupuncture Board.

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- 1 (y) The Board of Psychology.
- 2 (z) The Podiatric Medical Board of California.
- 3 (aa) The Physical Therapy Board of California.
- 4 (ab) The Arbitration Review Program.
- 5 (ac) The Physician Assistant Board.
- 6 (ad) The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and
- 7 Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.

- 8 (ae) The California Board of Occupational Therapy.
  - (af) The Osteopathic Medical Board of California.
- 10 (ag) The Naturopathic Medicine Committee.
- 11 (ah) The Dental Hygiene Board of California.
- 12 (ai) The Professional Fiduciaries Bureau.
- 13 (aj) The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.
- 14 (ak) The Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers.
- 15 (al) The Structural Pest Control Board.
- 16 (am) The Bureau of Cannabis Control.
- 17 (an) The Bureau of Home Inspectors.
- 18 (ao) Any other boards, offices, or officers subject to its 19 jurisdiction by law.
- 20 (ap) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2023.
- SEC. 3. Section 205 of the Business and Professions Code, as amended by Chapter 312 of the Statutes of 2020, is amended to read:
- 24 205. (a) There is in the State Treasury the Professions and
- Vocations Fund. The fund shall consist of the following special funds:
- 27 (1) Accountancy Fund.
- 28 (2) California Architects Board Fund.
- 29 (3) Athletic Commission Fund.
- 30 (4) Barbering and Cosmetology Contingent Fund.
- 31 (5) Cemetery and Funeral Fund.
- 32 (6) Contractors License Fund.
- 33 (7) State Dentistry Fund.
- 34 (8) Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Fund.
- 35 (9) California Architects Board-Landscape Architects Fund.
- 36 (10) Contingent Fund of the Medical Board of California.
- 37 (11) Optometry Fund.
- 38 (12) Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund.
- 39 (13) Physical Therapy Fund.
- 40 (14) Private Investigator Fund.

- 1 (15) Private Security Services Fund.
- 2 (16) Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's
- 3 Fund.

- 4 (17) Consumer Affairs Fund.
- 5 (18) Behavioral Sciences Fund.
  - (19) Licensed Midwifery Fund.
- 7 (20) Court Reporters' Fund.
- 8 (21) Veterinary Medical Board Contingent Fund.
  - (22) Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Fund.
- 10 (23) Electronic and Appliance Repair Fund.
- 11 (24) Acupuncture Fund.
- 12 (25) Physician Assistant Fund.
- 13 (26) Board of Podiatric Medicine Fund.
- 14 (27) Psychology Fund.
- 15 (28) Respiratory Care Fund.
- 16 (29) Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing
- 17 Aid Dispensers Fund.
- 18 (30) Board of Registered Nursing Fund.
- 19 (31) Animal Health Technician Examining Committee Fund.
- 20 (32) State Dental Hygiene Fund.
- 21 (33) Structural Pest Control Fund.
- 22 (34) Structural Pest Control Eradication and Enforcement Fund.
- 23 (35) Structural Pest Control Research Fund.
- 24 (36) Household Movers Fund.
- 25 (b) For accounting and recordkeeping purposes, the Professions
- 26 and Vocations Fund shall be deemed to be a single special fund,
- 27 and each of the several special funds therein shall constitute and
- 28 be deemed to be a separate account in the Professions and
- 29 Vocations Fund. Each account or fund shall be available for
- 30 expenditure only for the purposes as are now or may hereafter be 31 provided by law.
- 32 (c) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2022.
- 33 (d) This section shall remain operative until January 1, 2023, and as of that date is repealed.
- 35 SEC. 4. Section 205 is added to the Business and Professions 36 Code, to read:
- 37 205. (a) There is in the State Treasury the Professions and
- 38 Vocations Fund. The fund shall consist of the following special
- 39 funds:
- 40 (1) Accountancy Fund.

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- 1 (2) California Architects Board Fund.
- 2 (3) Athletic Commission Fund.
- 3 (4) Barbering and Cosmetology Contingent Fund.
- 4 (5) Cemetery and Funeral Fund.
- 5 (6) Contractors License Fund.
- 6 (7) State Dentistry Fund.
- 7 (8) Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Fund.
- 8 (9) California Architects Board-Landscape Architects Fund.
- 9 (10) Contingent Fund of the Medical Board of California.
- 10 (11) Optometry Fund.
- 11 (12) Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund.
- 12 (13) Physical Therapy Fund.
- 13 (14) Private Investigator Fund.
- 14 (15) Private Security Services Fund.
- 15 (16) Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's
- 16 Fund.
- 17 (17) Consumer Affairs Fund.
- 18 (18) Behavioral Sciences Fund.
- 19 (19) Licensed Midwifery Fund.
- 20 (20) Court Reporters' Fund.
- 21 (21) Veterinary Medical Board Contingent Fund.
- 22 (22) Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Fund.
- 23 (23) Electronic and Appliance Repair Fund.
- 24 (24) Acupuncture Fund.
- 25 (25) Physician Assistant Fund.
- 26 (26) Board of Podiatric Medicine Fund.
- 27 (27) Psychology Fund.
- 28 (28) Respiratory Care Fund.
- 29 (29) Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing
- 30 Aid Dispensers Fund.
- 31 (30) Board of Registered Nursing Fund.
- 32 (31) Animal Health Technician Examining Committee Fund.
- 33 (32) State Dental Hygiene Fund.
- 34 (33) Structural Pest Control Fund.
- 35 (34) Structural Pest Control Eradication and Enforcement Fund.
- 36 (35) Structural Pest Control Research Fund.
- 37 (36) Household Movers Fund.
- 38 (37) Home Inspectors License Fund.
- 39 (b) For accounting and recordkeeping purposes, the Professions
- 40 and Vocations Fund shall be deemed to be a single special fund,

- and each of the several special funds therein shall constitute and be deemed to be a separate account in the Professions and Vocations Fund. Each account or fund shall be available for expenditure only for the purposes as are now or may hereafter be provided by law.
  - (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2023.

- SEC. 5. Section 7199.1 is added to the Business and Professions Code, immediately following Section 7199, to read:
- 7199.1. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2023, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 6. Section 7199.8 is added to the Business and Professions Code, immediately following Section 7199.7, to read:
- 7199.8. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2023, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 7. Chapter 9.3 (commencing with Section 7193) is added to Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

# CHAPTER 9.3. HOME INSPECTORS

## Article 1. Administration

- 7193. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited as, the Home Inspectors License Law.
- 7193.3. There is in the Department of Consumer Affairs a Bureau of Home Inspectors. Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Bureau of Home Inspectors in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.
- 7193.5. (a) The Governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Senate, the Chief of the Bureau of Home Inspectors who shall, in consultation with the Governor and the director, administer the licensing program for home inspectors. In making the appointment, consideration shall be given to the qualifications of an individual that demonstrate knowledge of the home inspection profession.
- (b) The chief shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The salary for the chief shall be fixed and determined by the Director of Consumer Affairs with approval of the Department of Human Resources.

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(c) The chief shall not have an active license under this act for the term of appointment, and thereafter the chief shall be subject to Section 87406 of the Government Code.

- (d) The chief, in consultation with the director and in accordance with the State Civil Service Act (Part 2 (commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code), may appoint and fix the compensation of legal, clerical, technical, investigation, and auditing personnel as may be necessary to carry out this chapter. All personnel shall perform their respective duties under the supervision and direction of the chief.
- 7193.7. (a) The bureau is under the supervision and control of the director. The duty of enforcing and administering this chapter is vested in the chief, and they are responsible to the Director of Consumer Affairs therefor. The chief shall adopt and enforce rules and regulations as are determined reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Those rules and regulations shall be adopted pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the powers and duties of the bureau, as set forth in this chapter, shall be subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature. In that review, the bureau shall have the burden of demonstrating a compelling public need for the continued existence of the bureau and its regulatory program, and that its function is the least restrictive regulation consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare.
- (c) The review shall be performed as if this chapter were scheduled to be repealed as of January 1, 2025.

## Article 2. Application of Chapter

7194. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Appliance" means an item in a residence with a specified purpose that includes, but is not limited to, an oven, dishwasher, or heater.
- (b) "Client" means a person with a direct material interest in the outcome of a home inspection who hires the home inspector named on the inspection agreement and compensates a home inspector for the performance of a home inspection.

(c) "Material defect" means a condition that significantly affects the value, desirability, habitability, or safety of the dwelling. Style or aesthetics shall not be considered in determining whether a system, structure, or component is defective.

- (d) "Structural" means a component that supports nonvariable forces or weights (dead loads) and variable forces or weights (live loads).
- (e) "Transfer" means a transfer by sale, exchange, installment land sales contract, as defined in Section 2985 of the Civil Code, lease with an option to purchase, any other option to purchase, or ground lease coupled with improvements, of real property or residential stock cooperative, improved with or consisting of not less than one nor more than four dwelling units.
- 7194.1. A home inspector is a natural person licensed under this chapter who is engaged in the business of home inspection either full time or part time. A home inspector shall satisfy all the requirements imposed on home inspectors by this chapter.
- 7194.2. A home inspection is a noninvasive, physical examination, performed for a fee in connection with a transfer of real property, of the mechanical, electrical, or plumbing systems or the structural and essential components of a residential dwelling of one to four units designed to identify material defects in those systems, structures, and components. A home inspection shall include any consultation regarding the property that is represented to be a home inspection or any confusingly similar term.
- 7194.3. (a) For any transfer of real property with a swimming pool or spa, a home inspection shall include a noninvasive physical examination of the pool or spa and dwelling, without a determination of a safety feature's compliance with any referenced law or standard, for the purpose of identifying with which, if any, of the seven drowning prevention safety features listed in subdivision (a) of Section 115922 of the Health and Safety Code the pool or spa is equipped.
- (b) A violation of this section is a cause for disciplinary action. 7194.4. A home inspection may also include the following, if requested by the client:
- (a) An inspection of energy efficiency. Energy efficiency items to be inspected may include the following:
- 39 (1) A noninvasive inspection of insulation R-values in attics, 40 roofs, walls, floors, and ducts.

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- 1 (2) The number of window glass panes and frame types.
- 2 (3) The heating and cooling equipment and water heating 3 systems.
  - (4) The age and fuel type of major appliances.
  - (5) The exhaust and cooling fans.

- (6) The type of thermostat and other systems.
- (7) The general integrity and potential leakage areas of walls, window areas, doors, and duct systems.
  - (8) The solar control efficiency of existing windows.
  - (b) A Home Energy Rating System (HERS) California home energy audit pursuant to regulations adopted by the Energy Commission in compliance with Section 25942 of the Public Resources Code.
  - (1) The HERS California home inspection report accompanying any home inspection report defined in Section 7194.5 shall comply with the standards and requirements established by the Energy Commission for HERS California home energy audits as specified in Article 8 (commencing with Section 1670) of Chapter 4 of Division 2 of Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, implementing the California Home Energy Rating System Program.
  - (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that a HERS California home energy audit may, at the request of the client, be performed by a home inspector who meets the requirements of Article 8 (commencing with Section 1670) of Chapter 4 of Division 2 of Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations.
  - (c) If the inspections prescribed by this section are requested by the client, the home inspector's failure to adhere to these provisions constitutes a cause for disciplinary action.
  - 7194.5. A home inspection report is a written report prepared for a fee and issued after a home inspection. The report shall clearly describe and identify the inspected systems, structures, or components of the dwelling, any material defects identified, and any recommendations regarding the conditions observed or recommendations for evaluation by appropriate persons.
  - 7194.6. (a) A home inspection report shall include the following:
- 37 (1) If issued for a dwelling with a pool or spa, an identification 38 of which, if any, of the seven drowning prevention safety features 39 listed in subdivision (a) of Section 115922 of the Health and Safety 40 Code the pool or spa is equipped with and shall specifically state

if the pool or spa has fewer than two of the listed drowning prevention safety features.

- (2) If issued in response to a home inspector's observation of any shade of yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing, identification of the observation and the following notification: "Manufacturers of yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing believe that yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing is safer if properly bonded and grounded as required by the manufacturer's installation instructions. Proper bonding and grounding of this product can only be determined by a licensed electrical contractor."
- (A) For the purposes of this subdivision, "corrugated stainless steel tubing" means a flexible, stainless steel pipe used to supply natural gas and propane in residential, commercial, and industrial structures.
- (b) A violation of this section is a cause for disciplinary action. 7194.7. A home inspection report may include an irrigation system inspection report prepared by either a home inspector or certified landscape irrigation auditor, for the purposes of improving landscape water use and irrigation efficiency on a parcel containing an in-ground landscape irrigation system, the operation of which is under the exclusive control of the owner or occupant of the dwelling. In those cases, the report may contain any or all of the following:
- (a) Examination of the irrigation system controller, if present, noting observable defects in installation or operation, or both.
- (b) Activation of each zone or circuit providing irrigation water to turf grass, noting malfunctions observed in the operation of each of the following:
- (1) The irrigation valve.

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- (2) Visible irrigation supply piping.
- (3) Sprinkler heads and stems.
- 32 (c) During activation of the system pursuant to subdivision (b), 33 observation of any of the following during the period of operation, 34 in minutes, specified in the report:
  - (1) Irrigation spray being directed to hardscape.
  - (2) Irrigation water leaving the irrigated area as surface runoff.
- (3) Ponding of irrigation water on the surface of the irrigated 38 area.
- 39 (4) Notation whether inspection is limited due to snow, ice, or 40 other site conditions that impede an inspection.

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(d) Notwithstanding any other law, a sanction or penalty regarding prohibited hours, days, or effects of operation of a landscape irrigation system shall not be levied upon either the home inspector, the landscape irrigation auditor, the occupant, or the owner of a property by any state or local agency or water purveyor as a consequence of the operation of a landscape irrigation system for the purpose of an irrigation system inspection carried out under this section.

- (e) A home inspector is encouraged to provide information or access to information regarding water-efficient landscape irrigation systems within the home inspection report.
- (f) To the extent funds are available, the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the California Real Estate Inspection Association and the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall compile an estimate of the number of properties for which an irrigation system inspection report has been prepared each year, beginning with 2018, for inclusion in an update to the California Water Plan.
- 7194.8. (a) An inspection agreement is a written contract signed by the client that outlines the standards and work to be performed by the home inspector and any limitations. An inspection subject to this chapter shall not be conducted without an inspection agreement as required by this section. The inspection agreement shall meet the following requirements:
  - (1) Be signed by the client.

- (2) Set forth the standards and work to be performed by the home inspector.
  - (3) Provide the name and license number of the home inspector.
- (4) Include the following statement: "THE HOME INSPECTOR WILL NOT DETERMINE AND THE REPORT PROVIDED UPON COMPLETION OF THE HOME INSPECTION WILL NOT CONTAIN A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THE HOME OR COMPONENTS AND/OR SYSTEMS OF THE HOME THAT HAVE BEEN INSPECTED CONFORM TO LOCAL OR STATE BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS."
- (5) An inspection report shall be provided to the client by the date set forth in the inspection agreement and, in the event that the agreement does not set forth a date by which the report shall be provided to the client, the home inspector shall provide the report

to the client no later than five days following the completion of the home inspection.

- (b) A violation of this section is a cause for disciplinary action. 7194.9. (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to allow home inspectors who are not registered engineers to perform any analysis of the systems, components, or structural integrity of a dwelling that would constitute the practice of civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering, or to exempt a home inspector from Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500), Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700), Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000), or Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 8500) of Division 3.
- (b) This chapter does not apply to a registered engineer, licensed land surveyor, or licensed architect acting pursuant to their professional registration or license, nor does it affect the obligations of a real estate licensee or transferor under Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 1102) of Chapter 2 of Title 4 of Part 3 of Division 2 of, or Article 2 (commencing with Section 2079) of Chapter 3 of Title 6 of Part 4 of Division 3 of, the Civil Code.

## Article 3. Licensing

- 7195. (a) Unless expressly exempt from licensure under Section 7194.9, a person shall not act or hold oneself out as a home inspector, or assume or use the title, designation, or abbreviation of a licensed home inspector, by advertisement or otherwise, unless that person is licensed as a home inspector in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) A person who willfully violates this provision is guilty of a public offense punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, or in a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both the imprisonment and fine.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, "advertisement" means a communication or dissemination within this state directed to the general public by television, radio or internet, or by any print medium including newspaper or other publication or advertising device; or any card, contract proposal, sign, billboard, lettering on vehicles registered in this or any other state, brochure, pamphlet circular, newspaper, magazine, airwave or any electronic

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transmission, or any form of directory under any listing denoting, "home inspection," "home inspector," or any word or words of a similar import or meaning requesting any work for which a license is required by the Home Inspectors License Law.

- 7195.3. (a) The chief shall adopt regulations governing the process and the procedure of applying for a license through license issuance, which shall include, but not be limited to, necessary experience or education, equivalency, and minimum requirements of the National Home Inspector Certification Council and California Real Estate Inspection Association, if any. The chief shall, by regulation, require the application for a home inspector license to include the applicant's social security number or individual taxpayer identification number. In adopting these regulations, the chief shall consider and promote the requisite skills and qualifications necessary for a licensee to provide safe and effective services to the public.
- (b) The chief shall prescribe by regulation equivalent courses and equivalent experience to implement this section.
- (c) In evaluating the experience of any applicant for a license, regardless of the number of hours required of that applicant, the chief shall apply the same standards to the experience of all applicants.
- (d) The bureau shall issue a license, the form and content of which shall be determined by the chief in accordance with Section 164. In addition, the bureau shall issue a "Certificate of Licensure" to any licensee, upon request and upon payment of any fees as provided in this chapter.
- (e) The bureau shall not issue a license to an applicant who is less than 18 years of age or does not possess a high school diploma.
- 7195.5. The chief shall adopt regulations governing the imposition of any conditions on the maintenance of a home inspector license once issued, which shall include, but not be limited to, continuing education, minimal financial or insurance requirements, and any license maintenance requirements of the National Home Inspector Certification Council and California Real Estate Inspection Association. In adopting these regulations, the chief shall consider and promote the requisite skills and qualifications necessary for a licensee to provide safe and effective services to the public.

- 7195.7. (a) A license issued under this chapter shall expire two years from the last day of the month in which the license is issued, or two years from the date on which the renewed license last expired.
- (b) (1) An expired license may be renewed upon the filing of an application for renewal and payment of the renewal fee within 30 days after its expiration.
- (2) If a license is renewed more than 30 days after its expiration, the licensee, as a condition prior to renewal, shall also pay the late delinquency fee as set forth in this chapter.
- (3) A license that has expired and has not been renewed for a period of 12 months shall be terminated.
- (c) The bureau shall establish by regulation the form and content of the license renewal and provisions for the voluntary inactivation of a license.

#### Article 4. Revenue

- 7196. (a) The Home Inspectors License Fund is hereby established within the State Treasury. Moneys in the fund shall be used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, by the department for the administration of this chapter.
- (b) All moneys, including fines or penalties imposed under this chapter, collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the fund.
- 7196.5. The bureau may set reasonable fees by regulation. These fees shall be set according to the following schedule:
- (a) The fee for an application for an original home inspector license shall not exceed one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175).
- (b) The fee for the renewal of a home inspector license shall not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75).
- (c) The fee for a certificate of licensure shall not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25).
- (d) The fee for inactive status shall not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25).
- (e) The delinquency fee for reactivation of an expired license shall not exceed 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the date of expiration.
- 39 (f) The replacement fee for a lost or destroyed certificate of 40 license shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10).

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### Article 5. Disciplinary Proceedings

- 7197. (a) The chief may upon their own motion or through a designee, and shall upon the verified complaint in writing of any person, investigate the actions of any applicant for a home inspector license or a home inspector within the state. The chief may deny the licensure or the renewal of licensure of, or cite, temporarily suspend, or permanently revoke any license, if the applicant or licensee commits any one or more of the acts or omissions constituting causes for disciplinary action in this chapter.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, with respect to administrative proceedings or hearings to suspend or revoke a home inspector license, the chief at all times shall have the burden of proof to establish by clear and convincing evidence that they are entitled to the relief sought in the petition.
- 7197.1. (a) A complaint against a licensee alleging commission of any patent acts or omissions that may be grounds for legal action shall be filed in writing with the chief within four years after the act or omission alleged as the ground for the disciplinary action.
- (b) The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the chief shall have all the powers granted therein.

7197.2. The decision may:

- (a) Provide for the immediate complete suspension by the licensee of all operations as a home inspector during the period fixed by the decision.
- (b) Impose upon the licensee compliance with such specific conditions as may be just in connection with the licensee's operations as a home inspector disclosed at the hearing and may further provide that until such conditions are complied with, no application for restoration of the suspended or revoked license shall be accepted by the bureau.
- 7197.5. If, upon investigation, the chief has probable cause to believe that a licensee, or an applicant for a license under this chapter, has committed any acts or omissions which are grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of license, the chief may, in lieu of proceeding pursuant to this article, issue a citation to the licensee or applicant. Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity the nature of the violation, including a

reference to the provisions alleged to have been violated. In addition, each citation may contain an order of correction fixing a reasonable time for correction of the violation or an order, against the licensee only, for payment of a specified sum to an injured party in lieu of correction, and may contain an assessment of a civil penalty.

7197.7. (a) Any licensee or applicant for licensure served with a citation pursuant to Section 7197.5, may appeal to the chief within 15 working days from service of the citation with respect to violations alleged by the chief, correction periods, amount of penalties, and the reasonableness of the change required by the chief to correct the condition.

(b) If a licensee or applicant for licensure notifies the chief that they intend to contest a citation issued under Section 7197.5, the chief shall afford an opportunity for a hearing. The chief shall thereafter issue a decision, based on findings of fact, affirming, modifying, or vacating the citation or penalty, or directing other appropriate relief. The proceedings under this section shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the chief shall have all the powers granted therein.

7197.9. A willful departure in any material respect of a home inspector who is not licensed as a general contractor, structural pest control operator, or architect, or registered as a professional engineer, from accepted standards of practice and codes of ethics of the California Real Estate Inspection Association, the American Society of Home Inspectors, or other nationally recognized professional home inspection associations constitutes a cause for disciplinary action.

## Article 6. Operative Date

7197.12. This chapter shall become operative on January 1, 2023.

SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty

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- for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
- the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
- Constitution.

# AB 1291 (Frazier, D-Fairfield) State bodies: open meetings.

**Status/History:** 3/4/2021 – Referred to Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization

**Location:** 3/4/2021 – Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization

**Introduced:** 2/19/2021

**Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires that meetings of a state body be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend, with certain exceptions. Existing law provides that, subject to certain exceptions and reasonable regulations, the state body shall provide members of the public an opportunity to directly address the state body on agenda items. Existing law authorizes the state body to limit the amount of time allotted for each member of the public to speak, but specifies that members of the public who use translators shall be given twice that allotted amount of time.

This bill would also require a state body, when it limits time for public comment, to provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes translating technology to address the state body. The bill would additionally make technical, non-substantive changes.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Section 11125.7 of the Government Code, relating to public meetings.

**Staff Comment:** Current law requires the Board to allow non-English speakers twice the amount of time to speak during public comment if they are using a translator and if time limits are imposed. This bill would amend the law to add the use of translating services, in addition to translators, to this requirement. The bill would also make non-substantive grammatical and formatting changes.

This bill has not yet been scheduled for hearing. Three other bills introduced this session (AB 29, AB 339, and AB 885) also propose to make various changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a "watch" position on AB 1291.

#### **Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier**

February 19, 2021

An act to amend Section 11125.7 of the Government Code, relating to public meetings.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1291, as introduced, Frazier. State bodies: open meetings.

The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires that meetings of a state body be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend, with certain exceptions. Existing law provides that, subject to certain exceptions and reasonable regulations, the state body shall provide members of the public an opportunity to directly address the state body on agenda items. Existing law authorizes the state body to limit the amount of time allotted for each member of the public to speak, but specifies that members of the public who use translators shall be given twice that allotted amount of time.

This bill would also require a state body, when it limits time for public comment, to provied at least twice the alloted time to a member of the public who utilizes translating technology to address the state body. The bill would additionally make technical, nonsubstantive changes.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 11125.7 of the Government Code is amended to read:

11125.7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the state body shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the state body on each agenda item before or during the state body's discussion or consideration of the item. This section is not applicable if the agenda item has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of members of the state body at a public meeting where interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the state body. Every notice for a special meeting at which action is proposed to be taken on an item shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the state body concerning that item prior to action on the item. In addition, the notice requirement of Section 11125 shall not preclude the acceptance of testimony at meetings, other than emergency meetings, from members of the public if no action is taken by the state body at the same meeting on matters brought before the body by members of the public.

- (b) The state body may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a) is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting the total amount of time allocated for public comment on particular issues and for each individual speaker.
- (c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), when a state body limits time for public comment the state body shall provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator *or other translating technology* to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the state body.
- (2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the state body utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the state body to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.
- (d) The state body shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, programs, or services of the state body, or of the acts or omissions of the state body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.
- (e) This section is not applicable to closed sessions held pursuant to Section 11126. any of the following:

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- 1 (1) Closed sessions held pursuant to Section 11126.
  - (f) This section is not applicable to decisions

- 3 (2) Decisions regarding proceedings held pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500), relating to administrative 5 adjudication, or to the conduct of those proceedings. 6
  - (g) This section is not applicable to hearings
- 7 (3) Hearings conducted by the California Victim Compensation 8 Board pursuant to Sections 13963 and 13963.1.
  - (h) This section is not applicable to agenda
- 10 (4) Agenda items that involve decisions of the Public Utilities Commission regarding adjudicatory hearings held pursuant to 11 12 Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 1701) of Part 1 of Division 13 1 of the Public Utilities Code. For all other agenda items, the 14 commission shall provide members of the public, other than those 15 who have already participated in the proceedings underlying the agenda item, an opportunity to directly address the commission 16 17 before or during the commission's consideration of the item.

# AB 1386 (Cunningham, R-San Luis Obispo) License fees: military partners and spouses.

**Status:** 3/11/2021 – Referred to Assembly Committee on Business and Professions.

**Location:** 3/11/2021 – Assembly Committee on Business and Professions

**Introduced:** 2/19/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing Section 115.5 of the Business and Professions Code requires that a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs expedite the licensure process for an applicant who is married to or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and who holds a current license in another state, district, or territory in the profession in which the applicant seeks a license. This bill would amend Section 115.5 to specify that a board shall not charge such an applicant an initial or original license fee.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Section 115.5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

**Staff Comment:** The Board charges applicants an application fee that covers the costs of processing the application and issuing the license once the applicant meets all of the qualifying requirements for licensure. The applicants also pay separate examination fees, either to the Board or to the examination vendor, that cover the costs of developing, maintaining, and administering the examination. The Board does not charge an initial or original license fee.

In previous legislative sessions, there have been bills introduced that would have required boards to waive initial application fees and initial license fees for active duty military and military spouses. However, due to concerns with the wording in the bills versus the different application/licensure processes and terminology regarding fees employed by the different boards, the bills did not pass.

The wording proposed in this bill is identical to AB 2631 from the 2020 legislative session; AB 2631 did not move forward last year due to the need to prioritize bills in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At its March 12, 2020, meeting, the Board took a position of "Watch" on this bill. However, the Board also authorized a change to "Oppose Unless Amended" if the bill is amended to require the Board to waive "any and all fees associated with obtaining a license" because the Board is concerned with who would be responsible for paying pass-through fees, such as those owed to the Department of Justice to conduct criminal background checks or ASBOG for the national geology examinations.

Two other bills introduced this session (AB 107 and AB 225) also propose to make various changes to the laws pertaining to licensure for military spouses.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "watch" on AB 1386 and also authorize a change in its position to "oppose unless amended" if the bill is amended to require the Board to waive "any and all fees associated with obtaining a license" because the Board is concerned with who would be responsible for paying pass-through fees, such as those owed to the Department of Justice to conduct criminal background checks or ASBOG for the national geology examinations.

#### **Introduced by Assembly Member Cunningham**

February 19, 2021

An act to amend Section 115.5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1386, as introduced, Cunningham. License fees: military partners and spouses.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law requires a board to expedite the licensure process for an applicant who holds a current license in another jurisdiction in the same profession or vocation and provides evidence that they are married to or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.

This bill would prohibit a board from charging an initial or original license fee to an applicant who meets these expedited licensing requirements.

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 115.5 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:

115.5. (a) A board within the department shall expedite the licensure process for an applicant who meets both of the following requirements:

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- (1) Supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.
- (2) Holds a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States in the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a license from the board.
- 12 (b) A board shall not charge an applicant who meets the 13 requirements in subdivision (a) an initial or original license fee. 14 (b)
- 15 (c) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.

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### SB 102 (Melendez, R-Murrieta)

(Coauthors: Senators Bates, R-Laguna Niguel; Grove, R-Bakersfield; and Jones, R-Santee) (Coauthors: Assembly Members Choi, R-Irvine; Gallagher, R-Yuba City; Mathis, R-Visalia; and Seyarto, R-Murrieta)

**COVID-19** emergency order violation: license revocation.

**Status/History:** 3/17/2021 – From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development. Scheduled to be heard 3/22/2021.

**Location:** 3/17/2021 – Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development

Introduced: 12/30/2020 Last Amended: 3/17/2021 Board Position: No position Board Staff Analysis: 3/19/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs and provides for the denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses for specified conduct. Additionally, existing law, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, which is administered by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, regulates the application, issuance, and suspension of alcoholic beverage licenses and provides the grounds upon which the department may suspend or revoke licenses.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Consumer Affairs, a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs that does not regulate healing arts licensees, and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control from revoking a license or from imposing a fine or penalty for failure to comply with any COVID-19 state of emergency orders or COVID-19 stay-at-home orders unless the board or department can prove that lack of compliance resulted in transmission of COVID-19. The bill would specify that the provisions do not preclude issuance of fines, penalties, or revoking a license for any action that is not related to the issuance of any COVID-19 state of emergency orders or COVID-19 stay-at-home order. The provisions of the bill would remain in effect until either the COVID-19 state of emergency is terminated or all COVID-19 stay-at-home orders are no longer in effect, whichever occurs later, but in no case would the provisions remain in effect after January 1, 2024.

**Affected Laws:** An act to add and repeal Sections 464.5 and 24200.8 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to business, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

**Staff Comment:** This bill would add Section 464.5 to the general provisions of the Business and Professions Code to specifically prohibit boards and bureaus that do not regulate healing arts licensees [hereinafter referred to as "board"] within the Department of Consumer Affairs from revoking a license or from imposing a fine or penalty based on the failure of the license holder to comply with a COVID-19 state of emergency or stay-at-home order unless the board could prove that the failure led to the transmission of the virus. The bill would also define the terms "COVID-19 state of emergency" and "COVID-19 stay-at-home order"; would clarify that boards

could still impose fines or penalties, including revocation, against licensees for violations unrelated to the COVID-19 orders; and would contain a sunset provision that the law would remain in effect until such time as the state of emergency is terminated or the orders lifted or until January 1, 2024, whichever occurs first.

This bill would also add Section 24200.8 to the Business and Professions Code specific to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

We have not received any complaints or other information indicating that our licensees have failed to comply with any of the COVID-19 emergency orders. However, other boards have dealt with these issues, mainly due to the nature of the businesses and professions they regulate (e.g., the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology and hair and nail salons). It is unlikely that the provisions of this bill would have much of an impact on the Board's enforcement actions.

Assembly Bill 54 proposes to make similar changes as this bill but has not yet been set for hearing.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "watch" on SB 102.

## AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 17, 2021 AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 10, 2021

SENATE BILL No. 102

## **Introduced by Senator Melendez**

(Coauthors: Senator Coauthors: Senators Bates, Grove, and Jones) (Coauthors: Assembly Members Choi, Gallagher, Mathis, and Seyarto)

December 30, 2020

An act to add *and repeal* Sections 464.5 and 24200.8 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to business, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 102, as amended, Melendez. COVID-19 emergency order violation: license revocation.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs and provides for the denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses for specified conduct. Existing law provides for the regulation of healing arts by various boards. Existing law authorizes boards to impose fines or penalties, as provided.

Existing law, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, which is administered by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, regulates the application, issuance, and suspension of alcoholic beverage licenses. The act provides the grounds upon which the department may suspend or revoke licenses and impose fines and penalties, as provided.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Consumer Affairs, a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs that does not regulate healing arts licensees, and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control from revoking a license or imposing a fine or penalty for failure

to comply with any COVID-19 state of emergency orders or COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, unless the board or department can prove that lack of compliance resulted in transmission of COVID-19. The bill would specify that the provisions do not preclude issuance of fines, penalties, or revoking a license for any action that is not related to the issuance of any COVID-19 state of emergency orders or COVID-19 stay-at-home order. The provisions of the bill would remain in effect until either the COVID-19 state of emergency is terminated or all COVID-19 stay-at-home orders are no longer in effect, whichever occurs later, but in no case would the provisions remain in effect after January 1, 2024.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. 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 464.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:
- 3 464.5. (a) The department and any board shall not revoke a 4 license, fine, or impose a penalty for failure to comply with any
- COVID-19 state of emergency-orders, orders or COVID-19 5
- stay-at-home orders, unless the department or board can prove 7
  - that lack of compliance resulted in the transmission of COVID-19. (b) For the purposes of this section, board does not include a
- 9 healing arts board as described in Division 2 (commencing with 10 Section 500).
- 11 (c) For the purposes of this section:
- 12 (1) "COVID-19 state of emergency" means the state of 13 emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020.
- 14 (2) "COVID-19 stay-at-home order" means either of the 15 *following:*
- 16 (A) Executive Order No. N-33-20, or any similar order issued by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services 17
- Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8550) of Division 1 of 18
- 19 *Title 2 of the Government Code) or the State Department of Public*
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- Health that requires the closure of businesses in response to the
- 21 COVID-19 state of emergency.

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(B) Any order by a local government that requires the closure of businesses in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency, including, but not limited to, an order issued pursuant to the police power of a city or county or any order issued by a local health officer pursuant to Section 101040 or 120175 of the Health and Safety Code.

- (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude the department or any board from issuing fines, penalties, or revoking a license for any action that is not related to the issuance of any COVID-19 state of emergency orders or COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.
- (e) This section shall remain in effect only until either the COVID-19 state of emergency terminates pursuant to Section 8629 of the Government Code or all COVID-19 stay-at-home orders are no longer in effect, whichever occurs later, and as of that date is repealed. However, if those contingencies are not met, then in no case shall this section remain in effect after January 1, 2024, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 2. Section 24200.8 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:
- 24200.8. (a) The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control shall not revoke the license, fine, or impose a penalty of any licensee for failure to comply with any COVID-19 state of emergency—orders orders, or COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, unless the department can prove that lack of compliance resulted in transmission of COVID-19.
  - (b) For the purposes of this section:
- (1) "COVID-19 state of emergency" means the state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020.
- (2) "COVID-19 stay-at-home order" means either of the following:
- (A) Executive Order No. N-33-20, or any similar order issued by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8550) of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code) or the State Department of Public Health that requires the closure of businesses in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency.
- 37 (B) Any order by a local government that requires the closure 38 of businesses in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency, 39 including, but not limited to, an order issued pursuant to the police 40 power of a city or county or any order issued by a local health

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officer pursuant to Section 101040 or 120175 of the Health and
 Safety Code.
 (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the department or any

- (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the department or any board from issuing fines, penalties, or revoking a license for any action that is not related to the issuance of any COVID-19 state of emergency orders or COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.
- (d) This section shall remain in effect only until either the COVID-19 state of emergency terminates pursuant to Section 8629 of the Government Code or all COVID-19 stay-at-home orders are no longer in effect, whichever occurs later, and as of that date is repealed. However, if those contingencies are not met, then in no case shall this section remain in effect after January 1, 2024, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

  In order to protect businesses, including small businesses, which continue to make significant contributions to economic security, which helps ensure public safety, during these unprecedented times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as soon as possible, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately immediately.

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## SB 407 (Archuleta, D-Whittier) Professional Land Surveyors' Act

Status/History: 3/22/2021 – Do pass and re-refer to Senate Committee on Appropriations with

recommendation to consent calendar. Set for hearing on April 5, 2021.

**Location:** 3/24/2021 – Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Introduced:** 2/12/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law, the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of land surveyors by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, and makes it unlawful to practice land surveying without a license, except as specified. Existing law defines "land surveying" for purposes of the act to include, among other things, determining the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to practice land surveying without legal authorization.

This bill would expand the definition of land surveying to include applying the principles of radar, sonar, or electromagnetic waves to make the above-described determinations. By expanding the scope of practices subject to the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, a violation of which is a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Section 8726 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

**Staff Comment:** SB 407 would add the terms "radar," "sonar," and "electromagnetic waves" to subdivision (b) of Section 8726, which is the section that defines the activities that constitute the practice of land surveying. This bill is sponsored by the California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers.

Board staff is concerned with adding these terms to the definition of land surveying. These terms are very broad and not defined as to how they relate to the practice of land surveying. They also relate more to tools and technology that may be used to perform land surveying. However, they can also be used by other professions for tasks unrelated to land surveying. For example, radar can be used to detect weather formations, and sonar is used by the commercial fishing industry to detect schools of fish; neither of these activities would, or should, be considered the practice of land surveying that can be performed only by someone licensed as a land surveyor.

Additionally, professional geologists and geophysicists use radar and electromagnetic waves in performing geologic and geophysics tasks, such as underground location. Including these terms in the definition of land surveying would call into question whether professional geologists and geophysicists could continue to use the tools and technologies represented by these terms to perform their professional services without also being licensed as a land surveyor.

In the past, the Board has expressed that it is not appropriate to include tools or technology in the definition of the practice of land surveying, especially when the tools or technology can and are used by other professions in ways that are unrelated to land surveying.

Furthermore, it is unclear to Board staff what problem is attempting to be solved by the inclusion of these terms. The Board's Enforcement Unit has dealt with only a handful of cases involving the use of Ground Penetrating Radar and the practice of land surveying; there have not been any cases involving the use of sonar.

For these reasons, Board staff believes that the terms "radar," "sonar," and "electromagnetic waves" should not be included in Section 8726.

This bill passed the Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development on March 22, 2021.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "oppose" on SB 407.

#### **Introduced by Senator Archuleta**

February 12, 2021

An act to amend Section 8726 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 407, as introduced, Archuleta. Professional Land Surveyors' Act. Existing law establishes the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law, the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, vests the board with the power to administer its provisions relating to the licensure and regulation of land surveyors. Existing law defines "land surveying" for purposes of the act to include, among other things, determining the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to practice land surveying without legal authorization.

This bill would expand the definition of land surveying to include applying the principles of radar, sonar, or electromagnetic waves to make the above-described determinations. By expanding the scope of practices subject to the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, a violation of which is a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 8726 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

- 8726. A person, including any person employed by the state or by a city, county, or city and county within the state, practices land surveying within the meaning of this chapter who, either in a public or private capacity, does or offers to do any one or more of the following:
- (a) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces the alignment or elevation for any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, as described in Section 6731.
- (b) Determines the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry. mathematics, photogrammetry, radar, sonar, or electromagnetic waves.
- (c) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces any property line or boundary of any parcel of land, right-of-way, easement, or alignment of those lines or boundaries.
- (d) Makes any survey for the subdivision or resubdivision of any tract of land. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "subdivision" or "resubdivision" shall be defined to include, but not be limited to, the definition in the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code) or the Subdivided Lands Law (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 11000) of Part 2 of Division 4 of this code).
- (e) By the use of the principles of land surveying determines the position for any monument or reference point which marks a property line, boundary, or corner, or sets, resets, or replaces any monument or reference point.
- (f) Geodetic or cadastral surveying. As used in this chapter, geodetic surveying means performing surveys, in which account is taken of the figure and size of the earth to determine or predetermine the horizontal or vertical positions of fixed objects thereon or related thereto, geodetic control points, monuments, or

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stations for use in the practice of land surveying or for stating the position of fixed objects, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations by California Coordinate System coordinates.

- (g) Determines the information shown or to be shown on any map or document prepared or furnished in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).
- (h) Indicates, in any capacity or in any manner, by the use of the title "land surveyor" or by any other title or by any other representation that he or she practices or offers they practice or offer to practice land surveying in any of its branches.
- (i) Procures or offers to procure land surveying work for himself, herself, themselves or others.
- (j) Manages, or conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which land surveying work is solicited, performed, or practiced.
- (k) Coordinates the work of professional, technical, or special consultants in connection with the activities authorized by this chapter.
- (*l*) Determines the information shown or to be shown within the description of any deed, trust deed, or other title document prepared for the purpose of describing the limit of real property in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a) to (f), inclusive.
- (m) Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data in the performance of the activities described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (k), and (l).
- (n) Renders a statement regarding the accuracy of maps or measured survey data.

Any department or agency of the state or any city, county, or city and county that has an unregistered person in responsible charge of land surveying work on January 1, 1986, shall be exempt from the requirement that the person be licensed as a land surveyor until the person currently in responsible charge is replaced.

The review, approval, or examination by a governmental entity of documents prepared or performed pursuant to this section shall be done by, or under the direct supervision of, a person authorized to practice land surveying.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because

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- 1 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
- 2 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
- 3 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
- 4 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
- 5 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
- 6 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
- 7 Constitution.

### SB 414 (Jones, R-Santee) Land.

Status/History: 3/22/2021 – Do pass and re-refer to Senate Committee on Governance & Finance

with recommendation to consent calendar.

**Location:** 3/24/2021 – Senate Committee on Governance & Finance

**Introduced:** 2/12/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law, the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of land surveyors by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, and makes it unlawful to practice land surveying without a license, except as specified. Existing law includes within the practice of land surveying cadastral surveying. Existing law also requires a record of survey filed with the county surveyor by a licensed surveyor or licensed civil engineer to include, among other information, any data necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor.

This bill would define cadastral surveying for purposes of the act. It would also provide that the data required to be shown on a record of survey may be in graphic or narrative form. Additionally, the bill would make non-substantive changes relating to licensed land surveyors and civil engineers.

This bill would also amend provisions of the Government Code relating to the Subdivision Map Act, specifically Section 66452.5.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Sections 8726, 8764, and 8780 of the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 66452.5 of the Government Code, relating to land.

**Staff Comment:** Section 8726 defines land surveying. It currently contains a subdivision that indicates that a person practices land surveying if they do or offer to do "geodetic or cadastral surveying"; that subdivision also provides a definition of "geodetic surveying," as that phrase is used in the Professional Land Surveyors' Act. There is no specific definition of "cadastral surveying" provided. This bill would add a definition of "cadastral surveying," as that phrase is used in the Professional Land Surveyors' Act. This bill would also reletter and renumber the subdivisions and subparagraphs in Section 8726 and make conforming changes.

This bill proposes to add the following as the definition of "cadastral surveying:"

"Cadastral surveying means a survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces, or reestablishes the boundaries and subdivision of the public land of the United States, or any other field survey of a cadaster that is a public record, survey, or map of the extent and ownership of land."

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides the following information on its website regarding cadastral surveys:

The BLM's Cadastral Survey Program provides one of the oldest and most fundamental functions of the U.S. Government. Originating with the Land Ordinance of 1785, cadastral surveys create, define, mark, and re-establish the boundaries and subdivisions of the public lands of the United States. (The word "cadastral" is derived from cadastre, meaning a public record, survey, or map of the value, extent, and ownership of land as a basis of taxation.) These surveys provide public land managers and the public with essential information needed to correctly determine ownership rights and privileges and facilitate good land management decisions.

The proposed definition seems to be a combination of the BLM's definitions of "cadastral surveying" and "cadastre" (or "cadaster"). Additionally, there are grammatical and phrasing issues with the wording that cause confusion as to what is actually meant by the definition. This confusion would make it hard to regulate and enforce the law and to ensure that this portion of the practice of land surveying is appropriately addressed on the examination for licensure.

Section 8764 specifies what information must be shown on a Record of Survey. It currently includes a subdivision that indicates "any other data necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor, as may be determined by the civil engineer or land surveyor preparing the record of survey." This bill would add the phrase "in graphic or narrative form" after "any other data" so that the provision would read "any other data, in graphic or narrative form, ...." This bill would also reletter and renumber the subdivisions and subparagraphs in Section 8764.

Since current law does not specify in what form the "any other data" referenced in Section 8764 must be shown, staff believes the law already allows for the data to be shown in graphic or narrative form. However, while likely unnecessary, this change could be viewed as providing clarification. It would be unlikely to have an effect on the Board's regulation and enforcement of the law.

Section 8780 authorizes the Board to investigate complaints against licensees and to take disciplinary action against licensees on certain grounds, as specified. One of the subdivisions states "Any negligence or incompetence in his or her practice of land surveying." This bill would separate this provision into two separate provisions: one would include negligence, and the other would include incompetence. This bill would also reletter and renumber the subdivisions and subparagraphs in Section 8780 and make grammatical changes.

Staff has heard that there are concerns with the law including both negligence and incompetence in the same subdivision, even with the word "or," because it gives some people the impression that the subject of an investigation, citation, or formal disciplinary action has committed both negligence and incompetence. Changing Section 8780 so that negligence and incompetence are in separate subdivisions would not change the Board's ability to investigate complaints or take action against licensees for either or both.

Government Code section 66452.5 is part of the Subdivision Map Act. The changes proposed to these sections do not impact the Board's regulation of the practice of land surveying.

This bill is nearly identical to SB 1057 from the 2020 legislative session. At its May 7, 2020, meeting, the Board voted to take an "Oppose Unless Amended" position on SB 1057 and request that the definition of "cadastral surveying," as proposed in the bill, be amended to use language that more closely matches the definition provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The language recommended by the Board is as follows:

Section 8726 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

• • •

(6) Geodetic <u>surveying</u> or cadastral surveying. As used in this chapter:

• • • •

(B) Cadastral surveying means <u>performing</u> a survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces, or reestablishes the boundaries and subdivisions of the public land of the United States<del>, or any other field survey of a cadaster that is a public record, survey, or map of the extent and ownership of land.</del>

This language was provided to the sponsors. However, before further discussions could occur, staff was advised that the bill would not be moving forward during the 2020 legislative session due to the need to prioritize bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill passed the Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development on March 22, 2021.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "oppose unless amended" on SB 414 and request that the bill be amended to use the recommended language shown above as the definition of "cadastral surveying."

#### **Introduced by Senator Jones**

February 12, 2021

An act to amend Sections 8726, 8764, and 8780 of the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 66452.5 of the Government Code, relating to land.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 414, as introduced, Jones. Land.

(1) Existing law, the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of land surveyors by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, and makes it unlawful to practice land surveying without a license, except as specified. Existing law includes within the practice of land surveying cadastral surveying.

This bill would define cadastral surveying for purposes of the act.

Existing law requires a record of survey filed with the county surveyor by a licensed surveyor or licensed civil engineer to include, among other information, any data necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor.

This bill would provide that this data may be in graphic or narrative form. The bill would make nonsubstantive changes relating to licensed land surveyors and civil engineers.

(2) The Subdivision Map Act authorizes a subdivider, or any tenant of the subject property in specified circumstances, to appeal from an action of the advisory agency relating to a tentative map to the appeal board or legislative body, as specified, and provides for the appeal from the decision of the appeal board to the legislative body. The act further authorizes any interested person adversely affected by a decision of the

advisory agency or appeal board to appeal the decision with the legislative body. Existing law requires a hearing to be held after an appeal is filed pursuant to those provisions within 30 days after the request is filed by the appellant.

This bill would instead require a hearing to be held within 45 days after the request is filed and would make conforming changes.

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

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

- SECTION 1. Section 8726 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
  - 8726. (a) A person, including any person employed by the state or by a city, county, or city and county within the state, practices land surveying within the meaning of this chapter who, either in a public or private capacity, does or offers to do any one or more of the following:

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(1) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces the alignment or elevation for any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, as described in Section 6731.

<del>(b)</del>

(2) Determines the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry.

17 <del>(e)</del>

(3) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces any property line or boundary of any parcel of land, right-of-way, easement, or alignment of those lines or boundaries.

<del>(d)</del>

(4) Makes any survey for the subdivision or resubdivision of any tract of land. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "subdivision" or "resubdivision" shall be defined to include, but not be limited to, the definition in the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code) or the Subdivided Lands Law (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 11000) of Part 2 of Division 4 of this

29 code).

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1 <del>(e)</del>

(5) By the use of the principles of land surveying determines the position for any monument or reference point which that marks a property line, boundary, or corner, or sets, resets, or replaces any monument or reference point.

<del>(f)</del>

- (6) Geodetic or cadastral surveying. As used in this-chapter, geodetic chapter:
- (A) Geodetic surveying means performing surveys, in which account is taken of the figure and size of the earth to determine or predetermine the horizontal or vertical positions of fixed objects thereon or related thereto, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations for use in the practice of land surveying or for stating the position of fixed objects, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations by California Coordinate System coordinates.
- (B) Cadastral surveying means a survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces, or reestablishes the boundaries and subdivisions of the public land of the United States, or any other field survey of a cadaster that is a public record, survey, or map of the extent and ownership of land.

<del>(g)</del>

(7) Determines the information shown or to be shown on any map or document prepared or furnished in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f). paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.

<del>(h)</del>

(8) Indicates, in any capacity or in any manner, by the use of the title "land surveyor" or by any other title or by any other representation that he or she practices or offers they practice or offer to practice land surveying in any of its branches.

<del>(i)</del>

(9) Procures or offers to procure land surveying work for himself, herself, themselves or others.

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(10) Manages, or conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which land surveying work is solicited, performed, or practiced.

38 <del>(k)</del>

(11) Coordinates the work of professional, technical, or special consultants in connection with the activities authorized by this chapter.

4 <del>(l)</del>

(12) Determines the information shown or to be shown within the description of any deed, trust deed, or other title document prepared for the purpose of describing the limit of real property in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a) to (f), paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.

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(13) Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data in the performance of the activities described in-subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (k), and (l). paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (11), and (12).

15 <del>(n)</del>

(14) Renders a statement regarding the accuracy of maps or measured survey data.

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(b) Any department or agency of the state or any city, county, or city and county that has an unregistered person in responsible charge of land surveying work on January 1, 1986, shall be exempt from the requirement that the person be licensed as a land surveyor until the person currently in responsible charge is replaced.

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- (c) The review, approval, or examination by a governmental entity of documents prepared or performed pursuant to this section shall be done by, or under the direct supervision of, a person authorized to practice land surveying.
- SEC. 2. Section 8764 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 8764. (a) The record of survey shall show the applicable provisions of the following consistent with the purpose of the survey:

34 <del>(a)</del>

(1) All monuments found, set, reset, replaced, or removed, describing their kind, size, and location, and giving other data relating thereto.

38 <del>(b)</del>

39 (2) Bearing or witness monuments, basis of bearings, bearing 40 and length of lines, scale of map, and north arrow.

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1 <del>(e)</del>

(3) Name and legal designation of the property in which the survey is located, and the date or time period of the survey.

4 <del>(d)</del>

(4) The relationship to those portions of adjacent tracts, streets, or senior conveyances—which that have common lines with the survey.

<del>(e)</del>

(5) Memorandum of oaths.

10 <del>(f</del>

11 (6) Statements required by Section 8764.5.

12 <del>(g)</del>

- (7) Any other-data data, in graphic or narrative form, necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor, as may be determined by the civil engineer or land surveyor preparing the record of survey.

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- (b) The record of survey shall also show, either graphically or by note, the reason or reasons, if any, why the mandatory filing provisions of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 8762 apply.

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- (c) The record of survey need not consist of a survey of an entire property.
- SEC. 3. Section 8780 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:
- 8780. (a) The board may, upon its own initiative or upon the receipt of a complaint, investigate the actions of any land surveyor licensed under this chapter or any civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) who is legally authorized to practice land surveying and make findings thereon.

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(b) By a majority vote, the board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the license or certificate of any land surveyor licensed under this chapter or civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) who is legally authorized to practice land surveying on any of the following grounds:

1 <del>(a)</del>

(1) Any fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in his or her their practice of land surveying.

4 <del>(b)</del>

- (2) Any negligence or incompetence in his or her in their practice of land surveying.
  - (3) Any incompetence in their practice of land surveying.

8 (6

(4) Any fraud or deceit in obtaining his or her their license.

10 <del>(d)</del>

(5) Any violation of any provision of this chapter or of any other law relating to or involving the practice of land surveying.

<del>(e</del>

(6) Any conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a land surveyor. The record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof.

17 <del>(f)</del>

(7) Aiding or abetting any person in the violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.

<del>(g)</del>

(8) A breach or violation of a contract to provide land surveying services.

<del>(h)</del>

- (9) A violation in the course of the practice of land surveying of a rule or regulation of unprofessional conduct adopted by the board.
- SEC. 4. Section 66452.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 66452.5. (a) (1) The subdivider, or any tenant of the subject property, in the case of a proposed conversion of residential real property to a condominium project, community apartment project, or stock cooperative project, may appeal from any action of the advisory agency with respect to a tentative map to the appeal board established by local ordinance or, if none, to the legislative body.
- (2) The appeal shall be filed with the clerk of the appeal board, or if there is none, with the clerk of the legislative body within 10 days after the action of the advisory agency from which the appeal is being taken.

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(3) Upon the filing of an appeal, the appeal board or legislative body shall set the matter for hearing. The hearing shall be held within 30 45 days after the date of a request filed by the subdivider or the appellant. If there is no regular meeting of the legislative body within the next 30 45 days for which notice can be given pursuant to Section 66451.3, the appeal may be heard at the next regular meeting for which notice can be given, or within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the request, whichever period is shorter. Within 10 days following the conclusion of the hearing, the appeal board or legislative body shall render its decision on the appeal.

- (b) (1) The subdivider, any tenant of the subject property, in the case of a conversion of residential real property to a condominium project, community apartment project, or stock cooperative project, or the advisory agency may appeal from the action of the appeal board to the legislative body. The appeal shall be filed in writing with the clerk of the legislative body within 10 days after the action of the appeal board from which the appeal is being taken.
- (2) After the filing of an appeal, the legislative body shall set the matter for hearing. The hearing shall be held within-30 45 days after the date of the request filed by the subdivider or the appellant. If there is no regular meeting of the legislative body within the next-30 45 days for which notice can be given pursuant to Section 66451.3, the appeal may be heard at the next regular meeting for which notice can be given, or within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the request, whichever period is shorter. Within 10 days following the conclusion of the hearing, the legislative body shall render its decision on the appeal.
- (c) (1) If there is an appeal board and it fails to act upon an appeal within the time limit specified in this chapter, the decision from which the appeal was taken shall be deemed affirmed and an appeal therefrom may thereupon be taken to the legislative body as provided in subdivision (b) of this section. If no further appeal is taken, the tentative map, insofar as it complies with applicable requirements of this division and any local ordinance, shall be deemed approved or conditionally approved as last approved or conditionally approved by the advisory agency, and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the legislative body to certify or state that approval, or if the advisory agency is one—which that is not

authorized by local ordinance to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the tentative map, the advisory agency shall submit its report to the legislative body as if no appeal had been taken.

- (2) If the legislative body fails to act upon an appeal within the time limit specified in this chapter, the tentative map, insofar as it complies with applicable requirements of this division and any local ordinance, shall be deemed to be approved or conditionally approved as last approved or conditionally approved, and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the legislative body to certify or state that approval.
- (d) (1) Any interested person adversely affected by a decision of the advisory agency or appeal board may file an appeal with the legislative body concerning any decision of the advisory agency or appeal board. The appeal shall be filed with the clerk of the legislative body within 10 days after the action of the advisory agency or appeal board that is the subject of the appeal. Upon the filing of the appeal, the legislative body shall set the matter for hearing. The hearing shall be held within 30 45 days after the date of a request filed by the subdivider or the appellant. If there is no regular meeting of the legislative body within the next-30 45 days for which notice can be given pursuant to Section 66451.3, the appeal may be heard at the next regular meeting for which notice can be given, or within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the request, whichever period is shorter. The hearing may be a public hearing for which notice shall be given in the time and manner provided.
- (2) Upon conclusion of the hearing, the legislative body shall, within 10 days, declare its findings based upon the testimony and documents produced before it or before the advisory board or the appeal board. The legislative body may sustain, modify, reject, or overrule any recommendations or rulings of the advisory board or the appeal board and may make any findings that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter or any local ordinance adopted pursuant to this chapter.
- (e) Each decision made pursuant to this section shall be supported by findings that are consistent with the provisions of this division and any local ordinance adopted pursuant to this division.
- (f) Notice of each hearing provided for in this section shall be sent by United States mail to each tenant of the subject property,

\_9\_ SB 414

- 1 in the case of a conversion of residential real property to a
- 2 condominium project, community apartment project, or stock
- 3 cooperative project, at least three days prior to the hearing. The
- 4 notice requirement of this subdivision shall be deemed satisfied if
- 5 the notice complies with the legal requirements for service by mail.
  6 Pursuant to Section 66451.2 fees may be collected from the
- 6 Pursuant to Section 66451.2, fees may be collected from the
- 7 subdivider or from persons appealing or filing an appeal for
- 8 expenses incurred under this section.

### SB 772 (Ochoa Bogh, R-Rancho Cucamonga; Coauthor: Borgeas, R-Fresno) Professions and vocations: citations: minor violations.

Status/History: 3/16/2021 – Set for hearing in Senate Committee on Business, Professions &

Economic Development on April 19, 2021.

Location: 3/3/2021 – Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development

**Introduced:** 2/19/2021 **Board Position:** No position **Board Staff Analysis:** 3/24/2021

**Bill Summary:** Existing law authorizes any board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue a citation to a licensee, which may contain an order of abatement or an order to pay an administrative fine assessed by the board.

This bill would prohibit the assessment of an administrative fine for a minor violation, and would specify that a violation shall be considered minor if it meets specified conditions, including that the violation did not pose a serious health or safety threat and there is no evidence that the violation was willful.

**Affected Laws:** An act to amend Section 125.9 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

**Staff Comment:** Section 125.9 authorizes the Board to establish by regulation a system for the issuance to a licensee of a citation which may contain an order of abatement or an order to pay an administrative fine where the licensee is in violation of the applicable licensing act or associated regulations. Section 125.9 specifies certain provisions that such a system must contain. It specifically indicates that the maximum amount of the fine shall not exceed \$5,000 per violation and requires that, in assessing the amount of the fine, due consideration is to be given to such factors as the gravity of the violation, the good faith effort of the licensee, and the history of previous violations.

This bill would add language that would prohibit the assessment of an administrative file if the violation is a "minor violation," as defined. The language, with the conditions that would require a violation to be considered "minor," is as follows:

- (f) A licensee shall not be assessed an administrative fine for a violation of the applicable licensing act or any regulation adopted pursuant to the act if the violation is a minor violation. A violation shall be considered minor if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
  - (1) The violation did not pose a serious health or safety threat.
  - (2) There is no evidence that the violation was willful.
  - (3) The licensee was not on probation at the time of the violation.
  - (4) The licensee does not have a history of committing the violation.
  - (5) The licensee corrects the violation within 30 days from the date notice of the violation is sent to the licensee.

The Board has adopted regulations to establish a system for the issuance of citations to licensees. Those regulations provide that the citation may contain an order to pay an administrative fine, and if it does, then the amount of the fine shall be between \$50 and \$5,000 per violation. Furthermore, the Board's regulations specify issues that must be considered in determining the amount of the fine.

Citations are usually issued for less serious (minor) violations, while cases involving more serious violations are referred for formal disciplinary action. Citations do not carry the same penalty weight as formal disciplinary actions, which can result in the suspension or revocation of the license. The licensure laws were created to protect the "health, safety, and welfare of the public," and violations of the laws are threats to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. One way to address violations, especially the less serious ones, and still protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, is to issue citations containing orders to pay administrative fines to licensees who violate the laws. Issuing a citation puts the licensee on notice of the violation so that they will understand the requirements of the law and ensure they comply in the future; including as a penalty the requirement to pay a fine also helps to reinforce this. Section 125.9 already requires the consideration of the "gravity of the violation," the "good faith" of the subject, and the "history of previous violations" in determining the appropriate amount of the fine if one is to be assessed. These provisions allow the Board discretion in determining whether to issue a citation containing an order to pay a fine and the amount of the fine to be assessed by basing the determination on the specific facts of the case. This bill would prevent the Board from exercising its own judgment as to the appropriate penalty and, therefore, would interfere with the Board's ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

This bill was originally scheduled for hearing in the Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development on March 22, 2021; however, that hearing was cancelled by the author. The bill is now scheduled to be heard on April 19, 2021.

**Staff Recommendation**: Staff recommends that the Board take a position of "oppose" on SB 772.

### Introduced by Senator Ochoa Bogh (Coauthor: Senator Borgeas)

February 19, 2021

An act to amend Section 125.9 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 772, as introduced, Ochoa Bogh. Professions and vocations: citations: minor violations.

Existing law authorizes the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, and any board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue a citation to a licensee, which may contain an order of abatement or an order to pay an administrative fine assessed by the board.

This bill would prohibit the assessment of an administrative fine for a minor violation, and would specify that a violation shall be considered minor if it meets specified conditions, including that the violation did not pose a serious health or safety threat and there is no evidence that the violation was willful.

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 125.9 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 125.9. (a) Except with respect to persons regulated under
- 4 Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 7500), any board, bureau,
- 5 or commission within the department, the State Board of

- Chiropractic Examiners, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, may establish, by regulation, a system for the issuance to a licensee of a citation which may contain an order of abatement or an order to pay an administrative fine assessed by the board, bureau, or commission where the licensee is in violation of the applicable licensing act or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.
  - (b) The system shall contain the following provisions:

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- (1) Citations shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity the nature of the violation, including specific reference to the provision of law determined to have been violated.
- (2) Whenever appropriate, the citation shall contain an order of abatement fixing a reasonable time for abatement of the violation.
- (3) In no event shall the administrative fine assessed by the board, bureau, or commission exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each inspection or each investigation made with respect to the violation, or five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation or count if the violation involves fraudulent billing submitted to an insurance company, the Medi-Cal program, or Medicare. In assessing a fine, the board, bureau, or commission shall give due consideration to the appropriateness of the amount of the fine with respect to factors such as the gravity of the violation, the good faith of the licensee, and the history of previous violations.
- (4) A citation or fine assessment issued pursuant to a citation shall inform the licensee that if the licensee desires a hearing to contest the finding of a violation, that hearing shall be requested by written notice to the board, bureau, or commission within 30 days of the date of issuance of the citation or assessment. If a hearing is not requested pursuant to this section, payment of any fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation charged. Hearings shall be held pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (5) Failure of a licensee to pay a fine or comply with an order of abatement, or both, within 30 days of the date of assessment or order, unless the citation is being appealed, may result in disciplinary action being taken by the board, bureau, or commission. Where a citation is not contested and a fine is not paid, the full amount of the assessed fine shall be added to the fee for renewal of the license. A license shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and fine.

-3 — SB 772

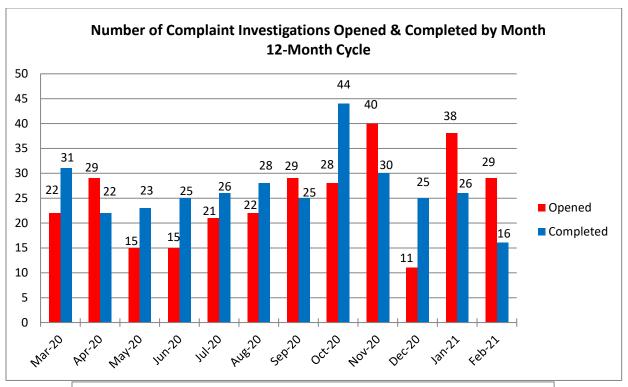
(c) The system may contain the following provisions:

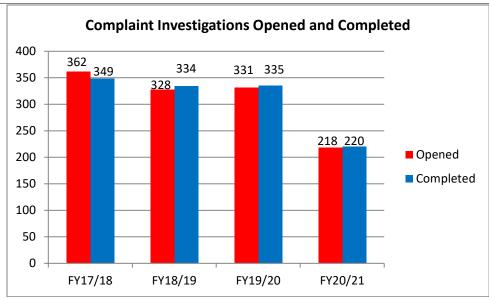
- (1) A citation may be issued without the assessment of an administrative fine.
- (2) Assessment of administrative fines may be limited to only particular violations of the applicable licensing act.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a fine is paid to satisfy an assessment based on the finding of a violation, payment of the fine and compliance with the order of abatement, if applicable, shall be represented as satisfactory resolution of the matter for purposes of public disclosure.
- (e) Administrative fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the special fund of the particular board, bureau, or commission.
- (f) A licensee shall not be assessed an administrative fine for a violation of the applicable licensing act or any regulation adopted pursuant to the act if the violation is a minor violation. A violation shall be considered minor if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) The violation did not pose a serious health or safety threat.
- (2) There is no evidence that the violation was willful.
- (3) The licensee was not on probation at the time of the violation.
  - (4) The licensee does not have a history of committing the violation.
- 25 (5) The licensee corrects the violation within 30 days from the date notice of the violation is sent to the licensee.

#### VI. **Enforcement**

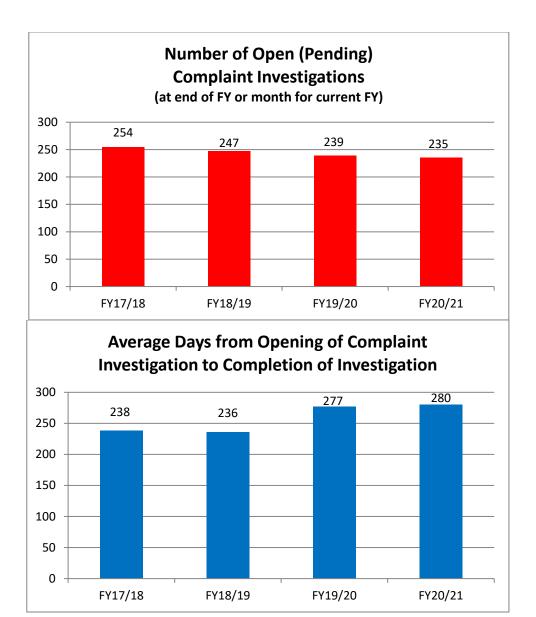
- A. Enforcement Statistical Reports
  1. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Update

### **Complaint Investigation Phase**

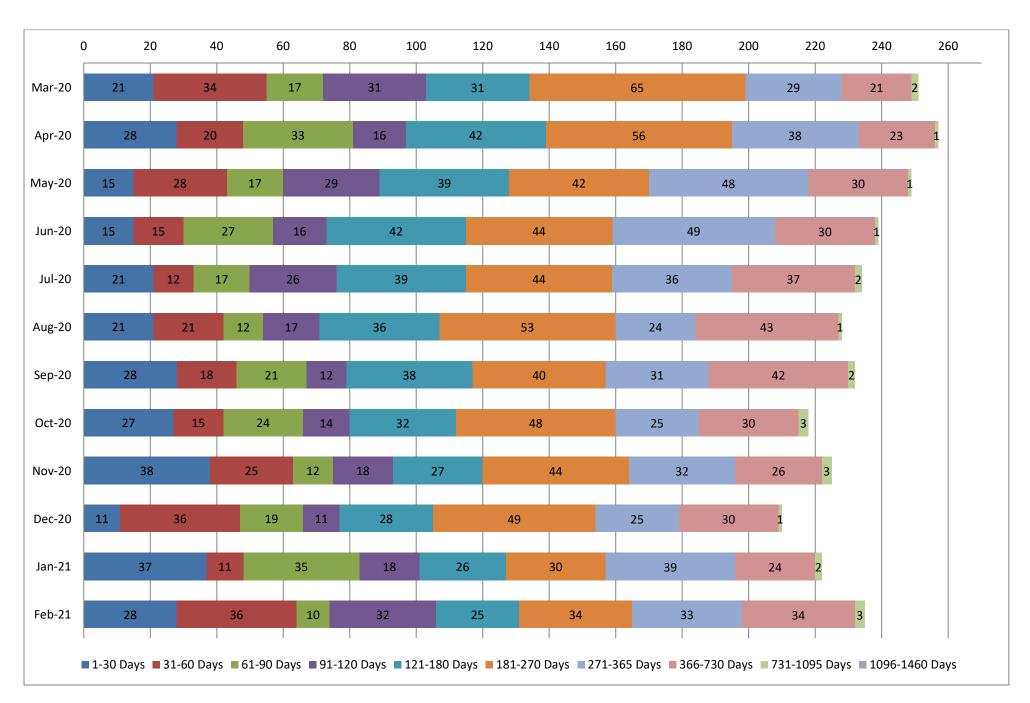


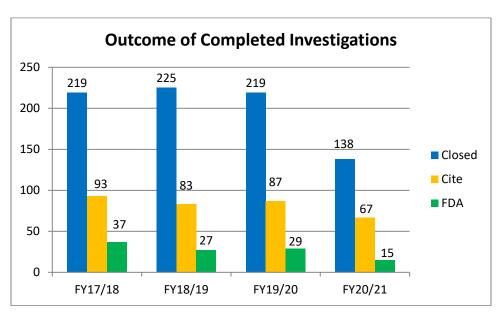


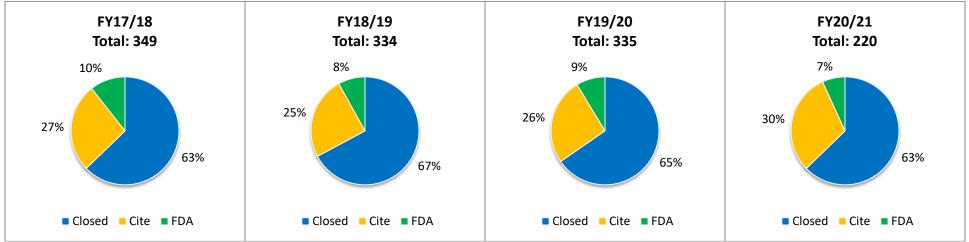
NOTE: FY20/21 statistics are through February 28, 2021



NOTE: FY20/21 statistics are through February 28, 2021







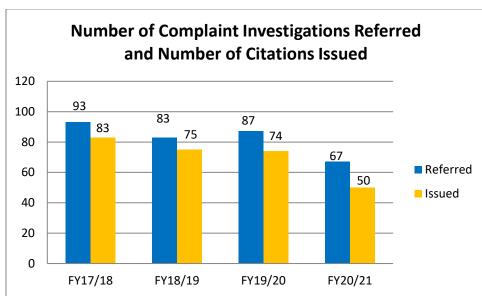
NOTE: FY20/21 statistics are through February 28, 2021

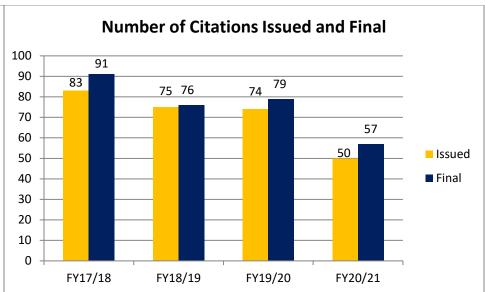
Closed with No Action Taken, includes No Violation/Insufficient Evidence; Compliance Obtained; Warning Letter; Other Reason for Closing Without Action (e.g., subject deceased); Resolved After Initial Notification; Referred to District Attorney with Request to File Criminal Charges; and Mediated.

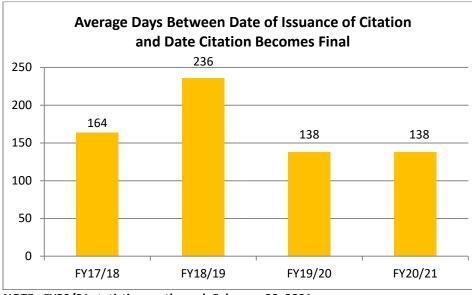
Cite = Referred for Issuance of Citation

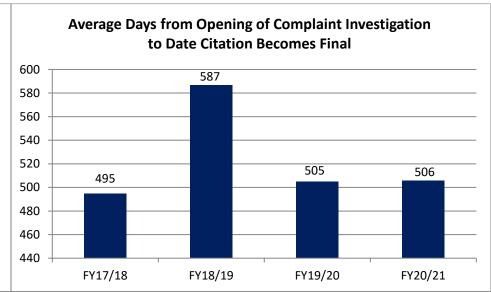
FDA = Referred for Formal Disciplinary Action

### **Citations (Informal Enforcement Actions)**

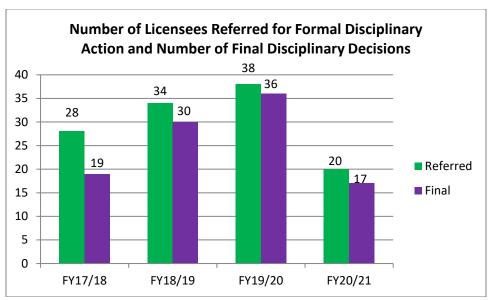


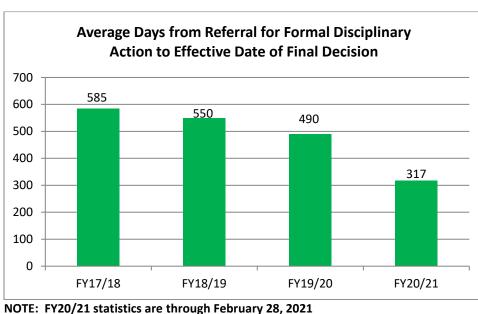


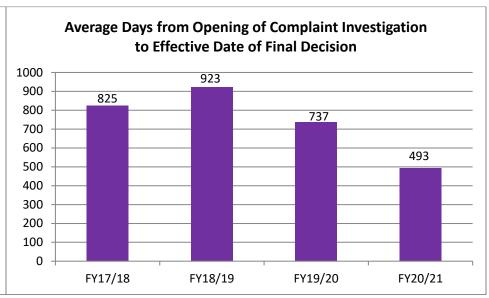




NOTE: FY20/21 statistics are through February 28, 2021







# Number of Complaint Investigations Opened & Completed by Month 12-Month Cycle

Month	Complaint Investigations Opened	Complaint Investigations Completed
March 2020	22	31
April 2020	29	22
May 2020	15	23
June 2020	15	25
July 2020	21	26
August 2020	22	28
September 2020	29	25
October 2020	28	41
November 2020	40	30
December 2020	11	25
January 2021	38	26
February 2021	29	16

# Complaint Investigations Opened and Completed Total by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Complaint Investigations Opened	Complaint Investigations Completed
2017/18	362	349
2018/19	328	334
2019/20	331	335
2020/21	218	220

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

### Number of Open (Pending) Complaint Investigations (at end of FY or month for current FY)

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Fiscal Year	Number of Open (Pending) Complaint Investigations
2017/18	254
2018/19	247
2019/20	239
2020/21	235

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

### **Complaint Investigation Phase**

# Average Days from Opening of Complaint Investigation to Completion of Investigation (at end of FY or month for current FY)

Fiscal Year	Average Days
2017/18	238
2018/19	236
2019/20	277
2020/21	280

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

**Outcome of Completed Investigations** 

Fiscal Year	# Closed	% Closed	# Cite	% Cite	# FDA	% FDA
2017/18	219	63%	93	27%	37	10%
2018/19	225	67%	83	25%	27	8%
2019/20	219	65%	87	29%	29	9%
2020/21	138	63%	37	30%	15	7%

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

Closed = Closed with No Action Taken, includes No Violation/Insufficient Evidence; Compliance Obtained; Warning Letter; Other Reason for Closing Without Action (e.g., subject deceased); Resolved After Initial Notification; Referred to District Attorney with Request to File Criminal Charges; and Mediated.

Cite = Referred for Issuance of Citation

FDA = Referred for Formal Disciplinary Action

# Aging of Open (Pending) Complaint Investigation Cases 12-Month Cycle

	12-NOTH Cycle									
Month	0-30 Days	31-60 Days	61-90 Days	91-12 Days	121- 180 Days	181- 270 Days	271- 365 Days	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years
March 2020	21	34	17	31	31	65	29	21	2	0
April 2020	28	20	33	16	42	56	38	23	1	0
May 2020	15	28	17	29	39	42	48	30	1	0
June 2020	15	15	27	16	42	44	49	30	1	0
July 2020	21	12	17	26	39	44	36	37	2	0
August 2020	21	21	12	17	36	53	24	43	1	0
September 2020	28	18	21	12	38	40	31	42	2	0
October 2020	27	15	24	14	32	48	25	30	3	0
November 2020	38	25	12	18	27	44	32	26	3	0
December 2020	11	36	19	11	28	49	25	30	1	0
January 2021	37	11	35	18	26	30	39	24	2	0
February 2021	28	36	10	32	25	34	33	34	3	0

Number of Complaint Investigations Referred and Number of Citations Issued

Fiscal Year	Complaint Investigations Referred for Issuance of Citation	Citations Issued
2017/18	93	83
2018/19	83	75
2019/20	87	74
2020/21	67	50

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

#### **Number of Citations Issued and Final**

Fiscal Year	Issued	Final
2017/18	83	91
2018/19	75	76
2019/20	74	79
2020/21	50	57

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

### Average Days Between Date of Issuance of Citation and Date Citation Becomes Final

Fiscal Year	Number of Days
2017/18	164
2018/19	236
2019/20	138
2020/21	138

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

### Average Days from Opening of Complaint Investigation to Date Citation Becomes Final

Fiscal Year	Number of Days
2017/18	495
2018/19	587
2019/20	505
2020/21	506

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

# Number of Licensees Referred for Formal Disciplinary Action and Number of Final Disciplinary Decisions

Fiscal Year	Number of Licensees Referred for Formal Disciplinary Action	Number of Final Disciplinary Decisions
2017/18	28	19
2018/19	34	30
2019/20	38	35
2020/21	20	17

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

# Average Days from Referral for Formal Disciplinary Action to Effective Date of Final Decision

Fiscal Year	Number of Days
2017/18	585
2018/19	550
2019/20	490
2020/21	317

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

### Average Days from Opening of Complaint Investigation to Effective Date of Final Decision

Fiscal Year	Number of Days
2017/18	825
2018/19	923
2019/20	737
2020/21	493

Current Fiscal Year through February 28, 2021

#### VII. Exams/Licensing

- A. 2021 Examinations Update
  B. Presentation from Prometric, Inc. Regarding 2021 Civil Engineer Examinations Technical Issues

#### VIII. Executive Officer's Report

- A. Rulemaking Status Report
- B. Update on Board's Business Modernization Project
- C. Discuss Dates for Strategic Plan Update
- D. Personnel
- E. ABET
- F. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)
  - 1. Spring 2021 Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop April 9-10, 2021
- G. National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)
  - 1. 2021 Western Zone Interim Meeting May 13, 2021 Voting Delegate
  - 2. 2021 Annual Meeting Update August 18-21, 2021
- H. Update on Outreach Efforts

#### **Rulemaking Overview**

#### 1. Repeal Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor Appeals (443 and 444)

- Noticed for 45-day Public Comment period on February 26, 2021.
  - o Approved by Agency on February 10, 2021.
  - o Budgets approved on November 24, 2020 and forwarded to DCA Legal.
  - o Submitted to DCA Budgets October 13, 2020.
  - o Submitted for initial (pre-notice) review by DCA Legal on September 5, 2019.
  - o Board directed staff to pursue rulemaking proposal on March 1, 2013.

### 2. Substantial Relationship Criteria and Criteria for Rehabilitation (416, 418, 3060, and 3061).

- Under final review by Office of Administrative Law (OAL).
  - o Rulemaking file was transmitted to OAL for final review on December 2, 2020.
  - o Agency approved on November 19, 2020.
  - o Approved by DCA and sent to Agency on November 9, 2020.
  - Sent to DOF on October 1, 2020.
  - o Rulemaking file submitted to DCA for final review on September 4, 2020.
  - Board approved final language and responses to comments on June 25, 2020.
  - o 15-Day public comment period ended on May 13, 2020.
  - o 45-Day public comment period ended on April 27, 2020.
  - Board approved modified language for 15-day public comment period on March 12, 2020.
  - DCA/Agency approved for filing with OAL for publication on March 2, 2020.
  - o Submitted for initial (pre-notice) review by DCA Legal on June 11, 2019.
  - o Board directed staff to pursue rulemaking proposal on February 21, 2019.

#### 3. Definition of Traffic Engineering (404)

- Board staff working with DCA Legal to prepare documents for initial notice.
  - o Submitted for initial (pre-notice) review by DCA Legal on September 3, 2020.
  - Board directed staff to pursue rulemaking proposal on March 8, 2018.

# 4. Definitions of Negligence and Incompetence and Responsible Charge Criteria for Professional Geologists and Professional Geophysicists (3003 and 3003.1)

Board directed staff to pursue rulemaking proposal on September 6, 2018.

**Note:** Documents related to any rulemaking file listed as noticed for public comment can be obtained from the Board's website at: <a href="http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/about\_us/rulemaking.shtml">http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/about\_us/rulemaking.shtml</a>.

### PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Reporting	12/01/2020 –	Project title:	Business Modernization
period:	1/20/2021		Cohort 1

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Narrative Summary of Status	Schedule:	GREEN	Budget:	GREEN	Issues:	GREEN	
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Product Increment 3 (PI3) of BPELSG Connect Scope for BPELSG is devoted to include the addition of professional-level application processes and refinements to the Board's online complaint submittal and investigation processes.

#### PROJECT MILESTONE STATUS REVIEW

Project Milestones	Status	Completion Date	Issues Exist (Yes/No)
Project Planning Complete – Project Start	Complete	1/13/2020	No
Go Live – Most Viable Product (MVP1)	Complete	9/16/2020	No
Product Increment 2 (PI2) – Commenced immediately following release of MVP1.	Complete	Sept 2020	No
Go Live - PI2	Complete	1/20/2021	No
Product Increment 3 (PI3) – Commenced immediately following PI2 release	Commenced	Jan 2021	No
PI3 - Sprints 9 and 10 completed; Sprint 11 currently in process followed by Sprint 12	On-going	Mar 2021	No

Staff is working with DCA SOLID to plan/schedule the Board's next Strategic Planning update and a few items need to be discussed by the Board to finalize that planning. The schedule will generally proceed as follows:

- Possible Revisions to Mission and Vision Statements
- Develop online stakeholder survey
- Distribute survey link to stakeholders
- Individual phone interviews with Board Members
- Compile Draft results of survey/discuss at Board meeting
- Strategic Planning Session
- Adopt Strategic Plan
- Develop Action Plan

Working in reverse, we need the Board to decide on the following:

1. <u>Choose date</u> for Strategic Planning Session to coincide with either the September 16-17 or November 4-5 Board meeting dates.

At the May 27-28, board meeting, we will plan on tackling the first bullet item, decide if there are any necessary revisions to the Board's mission and vision statements. The remaining items will fall into place depending on when the Board chooses to conduct the planning session.



**BOARD MEETING** 

### **QUARTERLY OUTREACH REPORT (Q4) SOCIAL MEDIA: October-December 2020**

TOP 5 FACEBOOK POSTS	DATE	VIEWS
COVID-19 Notice	November 25	454
COVID-19 Notice	November 13	401
COVID-19 Notice	November 20	395
COVID-19 Notice	November 7	371
COVID-19 Notice	October 29	339

TOP 5 TWEETS	DATE	VIEWS
COVID-19 Notice	October 2	731
COVID-19 Notice	October 9	628
COVID-19 Notice	October 16	589
New Phone Numbers Listed	October 2	588
COVID-19 Notice	October 2	572

<b>WEB PAGE VIEWS</b>	VIEWS
License Lookup	276,342
Board Home Page	169,075
Applicant Information	114,471
P.E. Application	89,504
Licensee Information	82,768

### BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

**BOARD MEETING** 

**APRIL 2021** 



### **OUTREACH EVENTS (Virtual): October—December 2020**

#### ALL VIRTUAL EVENTS HELD BY BOARD REGISTRARS

#### **KEY**

ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers
APWA American Public Works Association
CalGeo California Geotechnical Engineering Association
SWE Society of Women Engineers
YMF Young Members Forum

#### **OCTOBER**

October 7—**Geology webinar:** Frequently Asked Questions: How to apply for a GIT, P.G., PGp, CHG or CEG license or certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

October 7—**Geology webinar:** For References: Completing the Independent Evaluation form for P.G., PGp, CHG or CEG applications. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

October 12—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

October 19—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

October 26—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

November 10—Aera Energy Geoscience Forum: An Introduction to State Licensing of Geologists. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

November 16—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

November 18—**Geology webinar:** After the Exams: Next steps in the process for GIT, P.G., PGp, CHG or CEG applications. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

November 18—**Geology webinar:** Introduction to the Laws and Regulations for Geology and Geophysics License Applicants and New Licensees. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

November 20—Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Senior Civil and Environmental Engineering Professional Practices class, 200-250 students in attendance. By Natalie King, P.E.

November 30—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

#### **DECEMBER**

December 14—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

December 30—**Geology webinar:** After the Exams: Next Steps in the Process for GIT, P.G., PGp, CHG or CEG applications. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

December 30—**Geology webinar:** Introduction to the Laws and Regulations for Geology and Geophysics License Applicants and New Licensees. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

#### **NOVEMBER**

November 6—Cal Poly San Luis Obispo CE-111 presentation to two Introduction to Civil Engineering classes. First class was freshmen, 154 in attendence. Second class was transfer students and 28 were in attendance. By Natalie King, P.E.

November 9—**Geology webinar:** The Path to a Professional Geologist (P.G.) License Begins with the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate. By Laurie Racca, P.G.

November 10—**Terracon Consulting, Inc. (CA offices):** Virtual presentation and Q&A in which 15 young engineers attended. By Natalie King, P.E.





#### IX. Technical Advisory Committees (TACs)

- A. Assignment of Items to TACs
  B. Appointment of TAC Members
- C. Reports from the TACs

X. President's Report/Board Member Activities

# XI. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the February 4, 2021, Board Meeting

#### DRAFT

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

#### Teleconference

Thursday, February 4, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:	President Alireza Asgari; Vice-President Natalie Alavi; Fel Amistad; Rossana D'Antonio; Duane Friel; Michael Hartley; Eric Johnson; Coby King; Asha Lang; Betsy Mathieson; Paul Novak; Mohammad Qureshi; Frank Ruffino; and Wilfredo Sanchez						
Board Members Absent:	Kathy Jones Irish						
Board Staff Present:	Ric Moore (Executive Officer); Nancy Eissler (Assistant Executive Officer); Tiffany Criswell (Enforcement Manager); Larry Kereszt (Examinations Manager); Celina Calderone (Board Liaison); and Joseph Chin (Legal Counsel)						

#### I. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

President Asgari called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and a quorum was established.

President Asgari congratulated Board Member Coby King on his reappointment and welcomed the newest Board Member, Paul Novak.

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ruffino led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:05 a.m. Board member Michael Hartley joined the meeting.

#### III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

During Public Comment, Rob McMillan, representing CLSA, announced he will be serving as the CLSA Board Liaison for the meeting until Annette Hovorka joins the meeting later. He welcomed the new Board members and expressed his appreciation to the Board.

#### IV. Administration

A. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget Report

Mr. Moore reported on the current financial statement which is current through Fiscal Month Five. There are no real changes from the projections except for one line item, Information Technology. There was an increase from our original Fiscal Month One projection which was due to the

Business Modernization Project. Each of the four programs signed a contract for the SLP platform for years 2-5. This was the cost of our share of the software.

#### 9:10 a.m. Board member Mohammad Qureshi joined the meeting.

B. Budget Letter 20-37 – Permanent 5% Budget Reduction At the December 10, 2020, Board meeting, Mr. Moore reported on Budget Letter 20-37 which was requested by the Governor's office for a permanent 5% reduction scheduled to begin next Fiscal Year. Initially, it was determined by DCA's Budget Office that 5% is equivalent to just slightly under \$300,000 which must be identified. Subsequent to this meeting, the Board was notified that DCA and the Department of Finance had defined which portions of our funds were subject to the 5% reduction which reduced the target amount from \$300,000 to \$180,000. Staff identified the savings could primarily come from transitioning the Exam Development meetings for the State exams to a virtual setting. This method of exam development was initiated in April 2020 when the pandemic began. Most of that savings was already realized and has been working very well. Overall, staff is feeling very optimistic about this method with the least amount of disruption to any of the operations or public services.

#### V. Legislation

A. 2021 Legislative Calendar

Ms. Eissler reviewed the Legislative Calendar.

B. Discussion of Legislation for 2020

1. AB 29: State Bodies: Meetings

MOTION:	Mr. King and Vice-President Alavi moved to take an "oppose unless amended" position and ask that AB 29 be amended to include clarifying language regarding exemptions for Closed Session materials and legislative, regulatory, and budgetary materials.
VOTE:	14-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Alireza Asgari	Х				
Natalie Alavi	Χ				
Fel Amistad	Χ				
Rossana D'Antonio	Х				
Duane Friel	Χ				
Michael Hartley	Х				
Kathy Jones Irish				Χ	
Eric Johnson	Χ				

Coby King	Χ		
Asha Lang	Χ		
Betsy Mathieson	Χ		
Paul Novak	Χ		
Mohammad Qureshi	Χ		
Frank Ruffino	Χ		
Wilfredo Sanchez	Χ		

Ms. Eissler added that Bill AB 339, regarding the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, was introduced last week and will be brought to the Board at the April meeting.

#### VI. Enforcement

- A. Enforcement Statistical Reports
  - 1. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Update

Ms. Criswell reviewed the Enforcement Statistics.

Mr. King inquired if the pandemic has affected enforcement. Ms. Criswell noted that there was a period of adjustment in the beginning while looking for more electronic means of communications and handling complaints. There were some delays in being able to assist the public and maintaining communication. Complaints, in general, have not really changed. She reported that the public has been very patient and understanding. At times, there is a higher level of emotions in dealing with the public in terms of enforcement related issues but is indicative of what everyone is going through currently. The Attorney General's Office and the Office of Administrative Hearings had to adjust heavily to teleworking and the administrative hearing process. There were delays in the beginning but have leveled off. She believes the pandemic has had no affect on the discipline process; in fact, they have improved greatly.

#### VII. Exams/Licensing

A. 2020 Examination Results

Mr. Kereszt shared the exam results for 2020. He noted that as a result of the pandemic, Prometric test centers were closed for exams for three months which impacted the statistics for the end of quarter 1 and quarter 2 in its entirety. Testing resumed July 1, which was the first day of quarter 3.

The CSE exam for the spring was administered since it was at the beginning of March, while the land surveyor exam had to be cancelled as it was scheduled in April. The statistics for the land surveyor exam are only for the October exam administration. NCEES and ASBOG all had to cancel their spring exam administration. The statistics presented are just for the fall 2020 exam administration.

As for 2021, the pandemic continues to impact the administration of the exams, both state and national. NCEES had scheduled a civil engineer exam for California candidates that was supposed to have been administered on January 29th in Pomona. This was an effort to offset the limited number of examinees that they could have for the fall but due to the pandemic, they had to cancel that exam. As for ASBOG, they were supposed to administer the Fundamentals of Geology and the Practice of Geology in Long Beach in March, but it was moved to Sacramento because of the ongoing challenges in Southern California. The state specific civil exams are also being impacted by cancellations, closures, and reschedules partly due to Prometric testing centers closing for pandemic related issues. Staff is working daily with Prometric to identify and contact affected exam candidates. At this point, staff does not solely rely on Prometric to contact of any of the candidates that are impacted. Staff also follows up with them just to ensure that they understand that their exam has been affected and to help them reschedule. Prometric also has been overwhelmed with their own pandemic concerns.

Mr. Kereszt expressed how important communication is during these times and assures that there is ongoing communication with Prometric, NCEES, and ASBOG to relay changes that occur and to attempt to mitigate the effects on exam candidates.

#### B. 2021 Examinations Update

During Public Comment, Rob McMillan thanked Board staff for continuing to assist candidates.

Alan Escarda, representing PECG, asked if the changes made for the pandemic will permanently change the examination process. Mr. Kereszt noted that for the state exams, it is difficult to say. He would like to see more consistency and stability and does not foresee many changes at this point.

#### VIII. Executive Officer's Report

#### A. Rulemaking Status Report

Mr. Moore reported on the various Rulemaking items. The Repeal of the Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor Appeals regulation has been approved by DCA and sent to Agency on December 17, 2020. If Agency comes back without comments, then it will proceed to the public comment period.

Substantial Relationship Criteria and Criteria for Rehabilitation regulatory package is under final review by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as of December 2020

Board staff is working with DCA Legal to prepare documents for initial

notice for the definition of traffic engineering regulatory proposal.

Staff continues to work on the Definitions of Negligence and Incompetence and Responsible Charge Criteria for Professional Geologists and Professional Geophysicists.

B. Update on Board's Business Modernization Project

Product Increment 2 (PI2) of the Business Modernization Project launched January 20, 2021. Refinements were added to the current EIT and LSIT application process which enabled access to the external user and to our office staff. License renewal process for all licensees who are eligible for renewal was enabled. The former online electronic renewal process that the Board utilized for approximately 5 years was disabled. There was a transition time when the former renewal processes were offline for about 2 weeks before PI2 of the Connect system launched. For the most part, the changes are working very well and have received positive feedback from most of our licensees that the overall process was a little bit smoother than with the former version. Licensees encountered some issues which were anticipated mainly due to when a licensee registers in Connect, they are offered the opportunity to link to any other licenses in our current databases. Once those links are established, they see the status of the other licenses they hold. However, we use certain criteria in the information they used to register to ensure that linking is accurate. Due to the manner in which data was collected over the last few decades in our former systems, specifically date of birth, some licensees would encounter issues. Staff has been able to resolve those issues very quickly which is enabling everybody to renew their license. Mr. Moore reported that since its launch on January 20 through January 30, 260 licenses were renewed which was expected for that portion of the month based on previous years. On February 1, there were over 200 licenses renewed in one day due to licenses that are set to expire at the end of March. Staff is very excited and are already in the planning stages for the next sprint to further the application and enforcement processes.

Mr. King congratulated staff on the progress so far and looks forward to reports on the next phase which will include professional level application processes and refinements to the Board's online complaint submittal and monitoring processes. He inquired what is to come in Product Increment 3 and 4. Mr. Moore reported that Product Increment 3 has begun and will end sometime in April and Product Increment 4 will begin shortly after the completion of PI3 and run through August when the four programs that are in this project's initial development contract is scheduled to end. There is Maintenance and Operations option after that to allow us to develop, build, and refine our system over the next few years. At the end of the initial contract, part of the project scope is to transfer knowledge and expertise from the developer to DCA Project Management Staff and the

Office of Information Services (OIS). The other programs participating in the process are experiencing success as well. Mr. Moore noted that along with our Board, Bureau for Private Post-Secondary Education is similarly complex based on the licensee population. DCA currently has Project Management Staff working with other boards that were not in the BreEZe transition and not in this cohort, that are now in various stages in their own Business Modernization Process.

#### C. Personnel

Mr. Moore reported that the vacant receptionist position has been filled by Francesca LaFleur. Mr. Moore announced that a number of applications were received for the Administrative Unit Manager position, and it is anticipated that interviews will be held soon.

#### D. ABET

Last summer it was reported that the Board was invited to virtually participate in two ABET reviews. They were cancelled as it was not deemed necessary to have an observer when no one can be there.

E. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)
Staff continues to work with ASBOG to continue exam administrations.

#### F. National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)

1. Report from 2021 Board President's Assembly

NCEES has been experiencing the impact of the pandemic and the effect it has on their exam candidates. In the fall of 2020, there was one site open in California (Visalia) and most of the remaining California examinees were afforded an opportunity to travel to Nevada at two locations (Las Vegas and Reno) to take the examinations. This was in no small part due to NCEES's efforts and the Nevada Board's efforts to arrange for those sites. NCEES also arranged for an additional 15-20 regional locations around the country to administer exams in late January. One site was in Pomonafor approximately 500 candidates for the NCEES Professional Civil Engineering exam. Mr. Kereszt spent quite a bit of time in communication with NCEES and the Los Angeles County Department of Health. It was a late decision, but the exams were cancelled for California. Currently, the April paper and pencil exams are scheduled and NCEES has reported that registration for the California sites filled up quickly and they are working diligently to accommodate everyone.

The Western Zone interim meeting will be held virtually and is scheduled for mid-May. Details will be provided as they become available.

G. Update on Outreach EffortsMr. Moore reviewed the outreach report.

#### IX. Technical Advisory Committees (TACs)

- A. Assignment of Items to TACs No report given.
- B. Appointment of TAC Members No report given.
- C. Reports from the TACs No report given.

### X. President's Report/Board Member Activities

President Asgari participated in the Structural Engineering Licensing and Regulation meeting between California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. Topics discussed were structural engineering exams transitioning to CBT (Computer Based Testing), structural licensing requirements, applications from other states and countries, and the possibility of establishing similar policies throughout the states.

President Asgari attended the NCEES Board President's Assembly and indicated it was very informative.

#### **XI.** Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2020, Board Meeting

	<u> </u>
MOTION:	Mr. Ruffino and Mr. Sanchez moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended.
VOTE:	14-0, Motion Carried
VOIL.	14-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Alireza Asgari	Χ				
Natalie Alavi	Χ				
Fel Amistad	Χ				
Rossana D'Antonio	Χ				
Duane Friel	Χ				
Michael Hartley	Χ				
Kathy Jones Irish				X	
Eric Johnson	Χ				
Coby King	Χ				
Asha Lang			Х		
Betsy Mathieson	Χ				
Paul Novak			Х		
Mohammad Qureshi	Χ				
Frank Ruffino	Χ	_			
Wilfredo Sanchez	Χ				

XII. Discussion Regarding Proposed Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting During public comment, Rob McMillan commended President Asgari and the moderator. Additionally, Mr. Moore mentioned that he would like to discuss dates for a future strategic planning session with the Board.

# XIII. Closed Session – The Board met in Closed Session to discuss, as needed:

- A. Personnel Matters [Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126(a) and (b)]
  - 1. Executive Officer Performance Evaluation
- B. Examination Procedures and Results [Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(1)]
- C. Administrative Adjudication [Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3)]
- D. Pending Litigation [Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)]

#### XIV. Adjournment

Due to technological limitations, adjournment will not be broadcast. Adjournment will immediately follow Closed Session, and there will be no other items of business discussed.

#### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

Rob McMillan, CLSA Alan Escarda, PECG XII. Discussion Regarding Proposed Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

## XIII. Closed Session – The Board will meet in Closed Session to discuss, as needed:

- A. Personnel Matters [Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126(a) and (b)]
- B. Examination Procedures and Results [Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(1)]
- C. Administrative Adjudication [Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3)]
- D. Pending Litigation [Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)]