

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 1395  
 AUTHOR: Garcia  
 CHAPTER: Chaptered, #205  
 BILL DATE: February 17, 2022, Introduced  
 SUBJECT: Licensed Physicians and Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program: Requirements  
 SPONSOR: AltaMed Health Corporation; San Benito Health Foundation; Clinicas de Salud del Valle de Salinas; Altura Centers for Health  
 POSITION: Support

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Requires the Medical Board of California (Board) to issue a license to practice medicine to Mexico Pilot Program (MPP) applicants without a social security number (SSN) or individual tax identification number (ITIN), as specified.

**AB 1395 was not amended after the previous Board meeting.**

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

- Licensing staff to create any appropriate forms and update relevant procedures (completed).
- Report in Board newsletter (expected to publish in December 2023).

BACKGROUND

[Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 853](#) authorizes the Board to issue up to 30 licenses to practice medicine to individuals participating in the MPP. Among other requirements, MPP participants must, prior to licensure complete the following:

- Pass a specified certification and interview examination.
- Satisfactorily complete a six-month orientation program on medical protocols and managed care practices in California.
- Satisfactorily complete an adult English-as-a-second-language course.

MPP participants are issued a three-year, non-renewable license to practice medicine in an authorized facility. As required by statute, the Board contracted with the University of California (UC), Davis to conduct an evaluation of the MPP. The first UC Davis annual [evaluation report](#) was issued in August 2022 and the second was issued October 2023. The Board's costs related to issuing MPP licenses, taking possible enforcement action against MPP licensees, and contracting with UC Davis are covered by nonprofit philanthropic entities donating to an MPP fund.

[BPC section 30](#) states that a licensing board shall require all applicants to provide either an ITIN or SSN when seeking an application for licensure. So far, 28 MPP licenses have been issued. The remaining two applicants have not yet provided an ITIN or SSN to the Board.

## ANALYSIS

According to the author's fact sheet:

“The ITIN is issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and currently, there is a three to five-month wait. More importantly, an ITIN is only issued to immigrants who have worked in the United States. The remaining six doctors have met all the criteria to be issued a medical license. Still, they have never worked or resided in the U.S. Unless the doctor has dual citizenship or is a permanent resident alien, these doctors will not have a social security number.”

This bill would require the Board to issue an MPP license to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for this license, except that they have been unable to provide the Board an ITIN or SSN, subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant shall immediately seek both an appropriate three-year visa and an SSN from the United States government within 14 days of being issued a license.
- The applicant shall immediately provide to the Board an SSN within 10 days of the federal government issuing their SSN.
- The applicant shall not engage in the practice of medicine until the Board determines that the above two conditions have been met.

After the Board confirms that the above conditions have been met, the Board shall notify the applicant that they may practice medicine pursuant to the MPP.

The bill contains an urgency clause and is already in effect.

FISCAL: Minor and absorbable costs to the MPP fund associated with processing expiration extension requests for MPP licensees.

SUPPORT: Grower-Shipper Association of Central California (for AB 1395).

OPPOSITION: None identified.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 1395, Garcia – Licensed Physicians and Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program: Requirements.](#)  
Version: 9/22/23 – Chaptered