

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: March 7, 2022
ATTENTION: Members, Special Faculty Permit Review Committee
SUBJECT: Discussion on Special Faculty Permits and Academic Medical Centers
STAFF CONTACT: Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs

Discussion:

Under prior law, only medical schools approved by the Medical Board of California (Board) were authorized to sponsor applicants for a special faculty permit (SFP). Two legislative bills were enacted recently to expand access to the SFP program to academic medical centers (AMC) that met certain requirements.

[Assembly Bill 2273 of 2020](#) changed the law, as follows:

- Defined an AMC as an entity that meets the following criteria:
 - A facility licensed by the State of California.
 - The facility conducts both internal and external peer review of the faculty for the purpose of conferral of academic appointments on an ongoing basis.
 - The facility conducts clinical and basic research for the purpose of advancing patient care.
 - The facility trains a minimum of 250 residents and postdoctoral fellows on an annual basis commencing each January 1.
 - The facility has more than 100 research students or postdoctoral researchers annually.
 - The facility has foreign medical graduates in clinical research.
 - The facility offers clinical observership training.
 - The facility has an intern and resident-to-bed ratio meeting the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services definition as a major teaching hospital and conducts research in an amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) or more annually.
- Expanded SFP program eligibility to the following individuals:
 - Someone offered a full-time appointment at the level of full professor in a tenure track position (or its equivalent) at an AMC; or

- Someone clearly outstanding in a specific field of medicine or surgery who was offered a full-time academic appointment at the level of full professor or associate professor by the dean or chief medical officer of an AMC
- Added one person to the Special Faculty Permit Review Committee (SFPRC) who will represent all AMCs.
 - Specifies that if there is more than one AMC approved by the Board, that the AMCs shall select by consensus one person to represent all AMCs on the SFPRC.
- Allows the Board to approve no more than five SFP applicants sponsored by AMCs in any calendar year.

[Senate Bill 806 of 2021](#) deleted the intern/resident bed ratio and \$100,000,000 annual research AMC requirements. The bill added a requirement that AMCs be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

New Legislation Would Update AMC Requirements

Introduced at the request of Cedars-Sinai, [Assembly Bill 2178](#) updates certain AMC requirements, as follows (deletions shown in ~~red strikeout~~ and addition in *blue italics*):

- The facility trains a minimum of 250 residents and ~~postdoctoral~~ fellows on an annual basis commencing each January 1.
- The facility has foreign medical graduates in ~~clinical~~ research.
- The facility offers clinical ~~observership training~~. *observer experiences*.

According to Cedar-Sinai, these proposed changes in AB 2178 align with AMC standards by accurately reflecting the types of trainees and learning experiences offered at these institutions.