

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 765
AUTHOR: Wood
BILL DATE: February 13, 2023, Introduced
SUBJECT: Physicians and Surgeons
SPONSOR: California Medical Association

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Prevents anyone from using a medical specialty title or refer to themselves as an osteopathic medical doctor (DO) without meeting certain requirements, as specified. Makes related findings and declarations on the risks associated with confusing titles and credentials in the provision of health care.

BACKGROUND

[Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 2054](#) states that it is unlawful for a person to use various titles related to physicians unless they have a valid license from the Medical Board of California (Board) or meet other criteria, as specified.

ANALYSIS

According to the author:

“Health care consumers deserve to know what types of providers are delivering their care. Trust, transparency and honesty in licensure status, education and training is critical in promoting and protecting patient safety. Consumer protection is the highest priority of all boards, bureaus, and commissions within the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Health care consumers can be confused and misled about the differences between the qualifications and education of various types of health care providers.”

AB 765 adds titles related to osteopathic medical doctors to BPC section 2054, helping to ensure that consumers are not misled. The bill also makes illegal the use of various “physician-equivalent” titles (e.g., dermatologist, radiologist) or any other wording that would indicate or imply that a person is licensed to practice medicine, unless they possess a license to do so.

This bill is expected to add clarity and certainty for consumers with regard to the use of titles that pertain to physicians, hopefully avoiding confusion about the qualifications of that provider.

FISCAL: Possible minor costs to the Board related to prosecuting violations of this law.

SUPPORT: None identified.

OPPOSITION: None identified.

POSITION: Recommendation: Support.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 765, Wood – Physicians and Surgeons.](#)
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