

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 834
AUTHOR: Irwin
BILL DATE: February 14, 2023, Introduced
SUBJECT: Physicians and Surgeons and Doctors of Podiatric
Medicine: Professional Partnerships
SPONSOR: California Podiatric Medical Association

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Removes the requirement that a physician must be the majority partner in a professional practice or group that involves both physicians and doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM). Removes the prohibition on partners who are a DPM from voting on matters related to the practice of medicine outside their scope of practice – according to the sponsor, this is not the intent of the bill.

BACKGROUND

[Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 2416](#) states that physicians (allopathic and/or osteopathic medical doctors) may form professional practices with DPMs. That section, however, states that the majority of the partners or group interests in that practice must be a physician. Further, that section states that partners who are not a physician may not vote on matters related to the practice of medicine that are outside their scope of practice.

ANALYSIS

According to the sponsor, AB 834 is not intended to allow DPMs to dictate how medicine is practiced outside of their scope. This bill, rather, is intended to change the MD ownership requirement, allowing MDs and DPMs to decide themselves the appropriate ownership interest levels as they provide care to their patients.

Future clarifying amendments are expected, and no action is required at this time.

FISCAL: Unknown.

SUPPORT: None identified.

OPPOSITION: None identified.

POSITION: Recommendation: Defer action to a later Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 834, Irwin – Physicians and Surgeons and Doctors of Podiatric Medicine: Professional Partnerships.](#)

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