

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 1991
AUTHOR: Bonta
BILL DATE: July 2, 2024, Amended
SUBJECT: Licensee and Registrant Renewal: National Provider Identifier
SPONSOR: Author
POSITION: Neutral

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Requires the Medical Board of California (Board) and other healing arts boards with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to collect from its licensees and registrants their National Provider Identifier (NPI), if they have one, when renewing their license or registration online.

RECENT AMENDMENTS

Since the prior Board meeting, the bill was amended in accordance with the Board's position of Oppose, Unless Amended, therefore, the Board now has a position of Neutral on AB 1991. The prior version would have required reporting various other personal information when the individual renewed their license or registration.

BACKGROUND

[Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 502](#) requires the various healing arts boards within DCA to request the following demographic information from its licensees at the time of renewal:

- Anticipated year of retirement
- Area of practice or specialty
- City, county, and ZIP Code of practice
- Date of birth
- Educational background and the highest level attained at time of licensure or registration
- Gender or gender identity
- Hours spent in direct patient care, including telehealth hours as a subcategory, training, research, and administration
- Languages spoken
- NPI
- Race or ethnicity
- Type of employer or classification of primary practice site among the types of practice sites specified by the board, including, but not limited to, clinic, hospital, managed care organization, or private practice.

- Work hours
- Sexual orientation
- Disability status

These demographic questions are available to be answered by licensees online through Breeze (a paper-based survey is not available) and Board licensees may fill out the survey at any time. As Breeze is currently configured, licensees are prompted to fill out the survey if they have not submitted it within six months prior to submitting their renewal application. Licensees may currently decline to answer one or more of the above questions if renewing their license online.

The collected data is [provided to the Department of Health Care Access and Information](#) (HCAI) and used to analyze issues related to workforce shortage, equity, and distribution in order to inform state policy.

In addition, [BPC section 2425.3](#) requires a physician licensee to report to the Board, upon the initial issuance and renewal of their license, any board certifications issued to them by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties and certain information related to their practice status (e.g. do they practice full-time in or outside California). This statute also requires the Board to request that the licensee disclose their cultural background and any non-English language proficiency. The responses provided by each licensee are included on their individual profile page on the Board's website.

ANALYSIS

According to the author (who is also the bill sponsor):

“...obtaining the NPI for California’s health care licensees would allow HCAI to evaluate the efficacy of loan programs that waive repayment when the provider works in an underserved area or at a location where the patients predominately represent an underserved population. A complete evaluation of these programs would demonstrate whether the programs should continue or if alternatives should be considered.”

Under this bill, healing arts licensees would be required to provide their NPI, if they have one, when renewing their license online. To accommodate this change, Board staff will update the online survey used in conjunction with the online renewal process.

FISCAL: Minor staff time to update the Board’s online licensee survey.

SUPPORT: None identified.

OPPOSITION: None identified.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 1991, Bonta – Licensee and Registrant Records.](#)
Version: 7/2/24 – Amended