

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 2864
 AUTHOR: Garcia
 BILL DATE: August 12, 2024, Amended
 SUBJECT: Licensed Physicians and Dentists from Mexico
 Program: Extension of Expiration Date of Current
 License Expiration Dates
 SPONSOR: Clinicas de Salud del Valle de Salinas (CSVS)
 California Primary Care Association (CPCA)
 POSITION: Support

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Extends the expiration date of the existing Licensed Physicians from Mexico Pilot Program (LPMPP) licensees for a period of three years from their current expiration date. Provides that a fee in the amount of \$1,726.50 shall be paid at the time of the extension and that the authority to issue these extensions ends after December 31, 2024.

RECENT AMENDMENTS

Since the prior meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board), AB 2864 was amended, as follows:

- Specifies that a fee in the amount of \$1,726.50 be paid along with the extension request made by the licensee and chief executive officer of the community health clinic that employs the physician.
- Requires the physician to be in an active license status at the time of their request.
- Sunsets the authority to grant extensions after December 31, 2024.

These amendments are in line with the Board’s Support, if Amended position adopted at the May 23-24, 2024, Board meeting. Accordingly, the Board now has a Support position on AB 2864.

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 LPMPP. Among other requirements, LPMPP 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.

LPMPPP 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 annual [evaluation report](#) was issued in October 2023. The Board's costs related to issuing LPMPPP licenses, taking possible enforcement action against LPMPPP licensees, and contracting with UC Davis are covered by nonprofit philanthropic entities donating to an LPMPPP fund.

[AB 1395 \(Chapter 205 of 2023 Statutes\)](#) was enacted into law and required the Board to issue a license to practice medicine to LPMPPP applicants without a social security number (SSN) or individual tax identification number (ITIN), as specified.

[SB 815 \(Chapter 815 of 2023 Statutes\)](#), the Board's most recent sunset bill, authorizes the Board to extend the expiration date of an LPMPPP license, based on certain delays the licensee has faced, if they were unable to practice medicine more than 30 consecutive business days due to at least one of the following circumstances (and with certain conditions):

- The pregnancy of the licensee.
- The pregnancy of the married spouse of the licensee.
- The pregnancy of the domestic partner who is in a civil union with the licensee.
- Delay caused by the credentialing process of health plans.
- Delay caused by the visa application and review process by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

ANALYSIS

According to the author:

“Perhaps the most urgent matter confronting the health care of our state and nation is ensuring that we have an adequate supply of doctors available to serve the diversity of our state and nation’s population and access to health care coverage if there are insufficient doctors to provide it and even fewer doctors who are culturally and linguistically competent. The shortage of physicians has only increased since 2000.

...AB 2864 is urgently needed so that these doctors will continue to serve these and more patients who require their culturally and linguistically competent services. My bill will provide a one-time three-year extension of their California medical license because the COVID-19 pandemic did not allow us to maximize the use of these doctors' three-year medical licenses.”

AB 2864 would extend the expiration date (in essence, a renewal) of the existing LPMPPP licensees for a period of three years from their current expiration date. This program is currently funded from philanthropic sources and the monies provided are

kept in a fund separate from the Board’s primary fund, the Medical Board of California Contingent Fund.

The current version of the bill includes the following requirements:

- The licensee and chief executive officer of the clinic that employs must both request this extension.
- The LPMPP licensee must be in active license status at the time of the request.
- A fee in the amount of \$1,726.50 (correlates to a “three-year version” of the existing two-year renewal fee amount) shall be paid at the time of the request.
- The authority to issue these extensions expires after December 31, 2024.

FISCAL: Modest estimated costs to the program fund associated with changing the expiration date for the existing LPMPP licensees, conducting any continuing medical education audits, and projected enforcement action. All costs are expected to be offset by the proposed fee amount described above.

SUPPORT: Alameda Health Consortium - San Leandro, CA
 AltaMed Health Services
 Altura Centers for Health
 Arroyo Vista Family Health Center
 CommuniCare+OLE
 Community Health Partnership
 Comprehensive Community Health Centers
 Dientes Community Dental
 Eisner Health
 El Proyecto Del Barrio
 Family Health Centers of San Diego
 Golden Valley Health Centers
 Gracelight Community Health
 Health Alliance of Northern California
 Health and Life Organization (Sacramento Community Clinics)
 Health Center Partners of Southern California
 Lifelong Medical Care
 North Coast Clinics Network
 Petaluma Health Center
 Redwoods Rural Health Center
 Sac Health
 San Benito Health Foundation
 San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium
 Santa Rosa Community Health
 Share Our Selves
 Shasta Community Health Center

South Central Family Health Center
Valley Community Healthcare
West County Health Centers

OPPOSITION: None identified.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 2864, Garcia – Licensed Physicians and Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program: Extension of Licenses](#)
Version: 8/12/24 – Amended