

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 360
AUTHOR: Papan
BILL DATE: April 9, 2025, Amended
SUBJECT: Menopause
SPONSOR: Author

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION:

Requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to work with the Medical Board of California (Board), Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC), and state higher education entities to assess physician education and training regarding menopause diagnosis and management and related trends in practice, as defined. HCAI would be required to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, as specified, no later than January 1, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Board is to protect healthcare consumers and prevent harm through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied healthcare professionals and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing, policy, and regulatory functions.

ANALYSIS:

According to the author's fact sheet:

"While 51% of the population will experience menopause, only 5% of these women will receive evidence-based treatment. This is due in part to a lack of training on menopause for many healthcare professionals (Women's Experiences¹). Doctors have admitted to being ill-informed about menopause and lacking the sufficient formal training during medical school and residency.² According to the Hospital Quality Institute, menopause is a condition that is often unrecognized and misdiagnosed due to its wide range of symptoms³.

¹ <https://www.newsonhealth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/DLN-Menopause-Consumer-Research-April-24-FINAL-Oct1.pdf>

² <https://www.pausitivehealth.com/menopause-doctor/>

³ <https://hqinstitute.org/menopause-and-misdiagnosis-a-call-for-patient-centered-safety/>

When physicians provide an incorrect diagnosis, it wastes valuable time that could be better spent on receiving the correct treatment. Today, many American women spend a third or more of their lives in menopause, often without the knowledge or resources to manage symptoms and conditions.”

AB 360 requires HCAI to work with the Board, OMBC, and state higher education entities to assess the following:

- Physicians and surgeons’ education and training regarding menopause diagnosis and management.
- Trends in practice patterns regarding menopause diagnosis and treatment by specialty, region, sex, race or ethnicity, medical practice setting, and experience.

Further, the bill requires HCAI to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2027, that does both of the following:

- Identifies gaps in medical education and training related to menopause and in menopause diagnosis and management practices among physicians and surgeons.
- Recommends state policy needed to improve menopause-related education and training and to improve health outcomes for people who experience menopause.

Although the extent of the Board’s work required by AB 360 is not clear, it is understood that the Board would provide communication support by distributing surveys or questionnaires electronically to its licensees on behalf of HCAI. A prior version of this bill would have required the Board to develop and administer surveys of its licensees on this topic as part of the license renewal process. After concerns were raised about the proposed responsibilities for the Board (including the associated costs) by the Assembly Committee on Business & Professions, the bill was amended into its current version.

Consideration of a Board Position

AB 360 attempts to address a worthy healthcare topic and it would be helpful to seek amendments to clarify that the Board’s role is limited to attending stakeholder meetings and distributing electronic communications to its licensees. Accordingly, staff recommend the Board adopt a Support, if Amended position.

FISCAL: Minor and absorbable costs anticipated related to attending meetings organized by HCAI to communicate one or more surveys and related information via email to relevant Board licensees.

SUPPORT: ACT3 Convening
Bayer U.S. LLC
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

California Black Health Network
California Black Women's Health Project
California Life Sciences Association
California State Federation of Democratic Women
Citrine Minds, LLC
Claret Circle, LLC
Council of Black Nurses – Los Angeles Chapter
Girls Club of Los Angeles
Healthywomen
Hot or Just Me INC
Hotpause Health
Life in the Pause
Menowar LLC
National Menopause Foundation
Opal and Joy
Pausitive Outlook, LLC
Perry
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Save a Girl, Save a World
Sistahs Aging with Grace & Elegance
SNAP Productions, Inc.
The Fuchsia Tent LLC
The Metapause
Under the Sisterhood LLC
Wisepause Wellness
Women in the Room Productions and Deep Rooted Entertainment Group
Women's Foundation California
Women's Caucus of The California Democratic Party
YWCA of San Gabriel Valley

OPPOSITION: American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists - District IX
California Medical Association

POSITION: Recommendation: Support, if Amended

ATTACHMENT: [AB 360, Papan. Menopause.](#)
Version: 4/9/25 – Amended