

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: SB 160
AUTHOR: Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
CHAPTER: Chaptered, #113
BILL DATE: September 8, 2025, Amended
SUBJECT: Background Checks
SPONSOR: Author
POSITION: None

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION:

Among other provisions, updates the Medical Practice Act (Act) to authorize the Medical Board of California (Board) and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) to enroll licensees in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) “Rap Back” Program, which will provide the Board and OMBC with subsequent federal arrest and conviction notifications, once that program is available.

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS:

- Mention in the Board’s final 2025 newsletter (expected to be published by January 2026).
- Collaborate with the California Department of Justice (DOJ), as needed, when the FBI “Rap Back” Program is available (ongoing).

BACKGROUND:

As discussed in the [Board’s 2022 Sunset Review Report](#) (see p. 177) under various provisions of the Business and Professions Code (BPC) and the Penal Code (PC), the Board and the OMBC are authorized to receive certain criminal history information about those who apply for a license issued by each board. Following licensure, each board receives notifications when a licensee is arrested or convicted of California state crimes, but not for federal crimes.

[BPC section 480](#) generally allows a licensing board to deny a license application if the applicant was convicted of a crime within the preceding seven years from the date of application that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the profession for which the application is made.

[PC section 11105.2\(a\)](#) requires the DOJ to provide this information to the Board and OMBC; however, the FBI (which maintains the federal arrest and conviction information) requires statutory amendments to be made first.

ANALYSIS:

In collaboration with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and DOJ, Board staff developed the language in SB 160 that is intended to meet FBI requirements associated with the FBI “Rap Back” program. In brief, SB 160 adds a new code section to the Act and amends the various statutes within the Act associated with each license type (e.g., physician and surgeon, licensed midwife, and polysomnographic licensees) that recast the authority of the two boards to require applicants to submit fingerprints at the time of initial application and obtain state and federal level arrest and conviction information about each applicant and licensee. The bill also adds similar language for the licensees of other DCA entities, including the Board of Behavioral Sciences and Board of Psychology.

SB 160 includes other language that furthers the ability of other state agencies to conduct fingerprinting and background checks.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact anticipated.

SUPPORT: N/A

OPPOSITION: N/A

ATTACHMENT: [SB 160, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review - Background Checks.](#)
Version: 9/17/25 – Chaptered