MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: November 21, 2025

ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California

SUBJECT: Board Enforcement Data

STAFF CONTACT: Reji Varghese, Executive Director

REQUESTED ACTION:

This agenda item is educational in nature, and no action is required.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

The Medical Board of California (Board) publishes its enforcement data in various ways, including, but not limited to, presentations in the <u>Board Annual Report</u>¹ and in Quarterly Board meeting materials, specifically in the Executive Management Report, Enforcement Program Summary (most recently included in Agenda Item 5C from the December 3-4, 2025, Board meeting). The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) also includes in their <u>Annual Report</u>² various enforcement statistics related to the Board and the other boards and bureaus within the DCA.

The purpose of this report is to address questions about how the Board presents certain enforcement data, including the differences between numbers reported within the above-mentioned publications. This report will also address concerns related to the volume of complaints that are closed without discipline.

Factors Related to Presentations of Board Enforcement Data

Complaint volume and disposition data related to the Board's enforcement program is tracked and stored within <u>BreEZe</u>, and is only accessible by authorized Board and DCA staff.

Whenever staff are preparing to publish enforcement data, the current statistics are retrieved from BreEZe to ensure that the most recently available information is displayed.

Because each publication reflects a "snapshot" of the data in BreEZe, any changes that are made to enforcement data over time (e.g., how certain complaints are coded by staff to represent the disposition of that complaint or to reflect a change in the Board's disciplinary decision pursuant to a judicial writ or subsequent Board decision) will be reflected in each subsequent publication. Throughout the life cycle of a complaint (including any related discipline), staff are directed to properly code each case in a

¹ See <u>Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2313</u> for more information.

² See <u>BPC section 312</u> for more information.

timely manner. If coding errors are discovered during a review, they are corrected and counted in the appropriate category in the next publication.

Although all Board enforcement data comes from the same source, each publication may present that data, including outcomes, in different ways. For example, both tables on BRD 7C-15 of the <u>August 2025 Quarterly Board meeting materials</u> and the <u>Fiscal Year (FY) 24-25 Board Annual Report</u> (see page 16, left column) indicate that there were a total of 88 license surrenders in FY 24-25.

Those license surrenders are presented in a more detailed manner on page 16 of the Board Annual Report³, indicating separately the surrenders that happen following a violation of probation:

- 60 license surrenders indicated under "Administrative Outcomes."
- 28 license surrenders indicated under "Probation Violation Outcomes."

Similarly, the DCA Annual Report may present certain Board enforcement data differently than the Board Annual Report and Quarterly Board meeting materials. For example, the DCA FY 23-24 Annual Report combines all Board license types when publishing enforcement outcomes, but in prior years, DCA published these outcomes separately for each license type⁴.

Due to the above-described factors, various publications may appear to present Board enforcement data in an inconsistent manner. Such differences, however, are reflective of the varying ways those publications define enforcement metrics and possible updates to the data maintained in BreEZe over time.

Complaint Closure Categories Addressed in Board Annual Report

In response to concerns related to the volume of complaints that are closed each year, the Board Annual Report includes information regarding the key causes of these complaint closures. The FY 24-25 Annual Report (see the chart labeled "Complaints Closed by Complaint Unit" on p. 14) indicates that a total of 9,707 complaints were received in that year and 7,584 complaints were closed in the Central Complaint Unit (CCU) for the following reasons:

- 1,601: Insufficient Evidence
- 1,586: No Jurisdiction
- 1,489: No Violation of the Medical Practice Act
- 1,439: No Response from Complainant

³ Page 18 of the FY 24-25 Board Annual Report also indicates a total of 88 license surrenders in the chart labeled "Administrative and Probation Violation Outcomes by Case Type."

⁴ See "Overview of Reported Information" on pages 16-21 of the DCA FY 23-24 Annual Report for helpful explanations of how data is published in that report.

- 644: Redundant Incident
- 419: Other
- 406: Inadequate Evidence

Further, CCU referred 1,012 complaints for investigation and referred 193 complaints for citation and fine.

If there are no or insufficient grounds to pursue enforcement action, the Board must close the complaint.