

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 742
AUTHOR: Elhawary
BILL DATE: July 2, 2025, Amended
SUBJECT: Department of Consumer Affairs: Licensing:
Applicants Who Are Descendants of Slaves
SPONSOR: Author
POSITION: Neutral

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION:

Requires the various licensing boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to prioritize applications for licensure from persons who are descendants of American slaves. This bill is contingent upon enactment of SB 518, which establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery.

During the prior quarterly meeting, the Medical Board of California (Board) discussed AB 742, but did not take a position on the bill.

RECENT AMENDMENTS:

Technical and clarifying amendments to AB 742 were adopted on July 2, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

[SB 518](#) (Weber Pierson) would establish the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery (Bureau), which would, relevant to AB 742, establish a process to certify descendants of American slaves.

Various statutes¹ within the Business and Professions Code (BPC) require licensing boards to expedite (sometimes referred to as prioritizing) the review of an application for certain applicants, including those who were honorably discharged as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, are the spouse/domestic partner of an active duty member of the military assigned to duty station in California, or have a certain refugee or immigration status.

[BPC section 2092](#) is within the Medical Practice Act and requires the Board to expedite the review of a physician's and surgeon's license applicant who intends to practice in a

¹ See BPC sections [115.4](#) and [115.5](#).

medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved population. These statutes do not change the licensing requirements, rather they simply require the Board to review the license applications on an expedited basis.

Board staff analyzed the processing timeframes for three recent fiscal years for expedited vs. non-expedited license applications for a physician's and surgeon's license. As shown in the table below, there is a very modest difference in the average² number of days to issue an expedited license.

Fiscal Year	Days: Expedited Applications	Days: Non- expedited Applications	Days Saved: Expedited Applications
2021-2022	101	123	12
2022-2023	111	135	14
2023-2024	64	72	8

ANALYSIS:

According to the author's fact sheet:

"In 2023, the Department of Justice issued a Reparations Task Force Report which presented evidence of deficiencies that descendants of slaves face in the business and professions sector. The Task Force presented a list of recommendations for the Legislature to take to address the disparities that this group still faces. AB 742 is a policy recommendation from the Task Force. By prioritizing descendants of slaves when applying for licenses, we hope to increase the number of applicants as well as those who are able to obtain licensure in various businesses and professions where descendants of slaves have often been overlooked and underrepresented."

AB 742 would require each DCA board to expedite a license applicant who is a descendent of American slaves. This requirement is contingent upon the enactment of SB 518 into law and following the date that the Bureau implements the process to certify descendants of American slaves. This requirement would be in effect for a four-year period or until January 1, 2032, whichever is earlier.

² Includes complete and incomplete applications. See further description of complete and incomplete applications under "Analysis" section.

Causes for Delays in Processing Applications

The Board's [application processing timeframes](#) are published on the Board's website and indicate the average number of calendar days, following receipt of an application and required fees, to conduct an initial staff review. If the Board initially reviews a complete application and no issues are identified with the application, then a license could be issued within approximately 7-10 days after that review.

The Board will not issue a license until all requirements for licensure have been met. Application processing is delayed while the Board awaits receipt of missing or incomplete required information or documents. Some notable examples include:

- Applicants who do not provide their full legal name.
- Incomplete/missing Timeline of Activities form (needed to document a gap in training/medical practice of three months or greater).
- Missing exam scores/transcripts.
- PTA/PTB form (used to verify postgraduate training) is missing or filled out incorrectly or with incomplete information.
- Missing/inadequate fingerprint results.

Furthermore, applications can require additional time for review if the applicant has a criminal history, administrative discipline, postgraduate training issues, or other unusual circumstances requiring further evaluation to support consumer protection.

Technical Concerns with AB 742

The bill does not require the applicant to provide documentation from the Bureau confirming that they are descended from an American slave to qualify for expedited review. Unless the bill is amended accordingly, the Board will be required to conduct a rulemaking.

FISCAL: Minor one-time costs expected to conduct a rulemaking, completing necessary BreZE modifications, updating forms, and training licensing staff. Minor ongoing costs are expected to process expedite requests and respond to inquiries.

SUPPORT: Board of Behavioral Sciences
California Federation of Teachers
Contractors State License Board

OPPOSITION: None received.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 742, Elhawary. Department of Consumer Affairs: Licensing: Applicants Who Are Descendants of Slaves.](#)
Version: 7/02/25 – Amended