

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: April 6, 2026  
ATTENTION: Members, Midwifery Advisory Council  
SUBJECT: Update on Midwifery Related Legislation  
STAFF CONTACT: Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is intended to provide the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) with an update on legislative activity related to licensed midwifery since the prior MAC meeting. No action is required.

Legislative Update

The following bills were signed into law in 2025 that may be of interest to the MAC:

[AB 55](#) revises the licensing requirements for an alternative birth center, with respect to the types of perinatal services that must be provided at that facility. Further, the bill requires the center to have a written hospital transfer policy. At the time of transfer, the bill requires the certified nurse-midwife or licensed midwife (LM) responsible for the care of the patient or client to provide the hospital with all the individual's medical records that are available at that time and to speak with the receiving provider about labor up to the point of transfer and any other information not yet added to the medical record.

When providing an initial orientation to new patients or clients at the center, AB 55 requires them to be informed of the estimated time it would take to transfer them to a hospital, provide related information, and include a signed acknowledgement of receiving this information in the patient's or client's medical records.

AB 55 also updates a code section that authorizes Medi-Cal reimbursement to alternative birth centers by deleting the requirement that the center be certified as a comprehensive perinatal services program provider. The bill also states that the center must meet the standards for certification established by the American Association of Birth Centers.

[AB 836](#) requires the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to conduct a statewide study on midwifery education, after receiving future spending authority by the Legislature. The findings of this study are intended to support the creation of a sustainable strategy that will develop the midwifery workforce in California that reflects California's racial, ethnic, linguistic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity.

[SB 470](#) extends the authority of state advisory bodies, like the MAC, to continue to meet remotely until January of 2030. See this Board [staff analysis](#) for additional information.

[SB 669](#) requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to develop a 10-year pilot project to establish standby perinatal services in up to five critical access hospitals in rural areas with limited access to comprehensive perinatal services. The pilot program prioritizes hospitals in the counties of Humboldt and Plumas. The CDPH would be required to consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including LMs, to develop this project.

### Pending Legislation

[AB 408](#) is Board-sponsored legislation that authorizes the Board to establish a health and wellness program that will offer treatment and monitoring to the Board's licensees and applicants related to substance abuse disorders or other health conditions that may impair their ability to practice safely. This bill is pending in the Senate Judiciary and will be further considered by the Legislature later this year. See this Board [staff analysis](#) for additional information.

[SB 626](#) would, among other provisions, require health care practitioners, including LMs, who provide perinatal care for a patient to screen them for a perinatal mental health condition according to applicable clinical guidelines and the standard of care appropriate to their scope of practice. Providers who diagnose and treat the individual must do so in accordance with the appropriate standard of care and may refer their patient or client to another practitioner authorized to provide this care. This bill is pending on the Assembly Floor. See this Board [staff analysis](#) for further information.

[SB 1271](#) would require the Board to update the LM survey offered at the time of initial licensure and license renewal to request that LMs voluntarily provide the following information:

- The LM's eligibility to serve as a clinical preceptor for student midwives enrolled in a midwifery education program approved by the Board, including whether they have met the minimum requirements to become a clinical preceptor.
  - If they answer yes, they will be asked the following:
    - If they are currently available, or anticipate becoming available within the next two years, to serve as a clinical preceptor for student midwives.
      - If they answer that they are currently available, they will be asked for the maximum number of student midwives they are able to supervise concurrently, what California counties they currently practice in, and in what California counties they are available for clinical preceptorship.
    - The primary practice setting or settings in which the LM would offer to serve as a clinical preceptor.
  - If they answer no, they will be asked to provide the primary reasons for their unavailability.

The bill states that an LM shall not be required to provide the requested information and shall not be subject to discipline for not providing this information. The Board would be required to maintain the confidentiality of the information collected and only release it to the public in an aggregate form that cannot identify an individual. The Board, however, would be required to provide the HCAI on a quarterly basis with the individual LM data collected for the purpose of statewide midwifery workforce planning, analysis, and public reporting.

HCAI shall maintain the confidentiality of the data collected and only release it in aggregate form that cannot be used to identify an individual LM. The bill also requires the HCAI to provide a report to the Legislature on their findings by January 1, 2028.

#### Board Sunset Review in 2027

The Board will undergo Sunset Review in 2027 and, therefore, will be submitting a sunset report, as required by the Legislature in late 2026 or early 2027. A sunset report provides a review of the history of the Board, including a detailed examination of its activities following the prior Sunset Review in 2023.