MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

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| BILL NUMBER: | SB 164 |
| AUTHOR: | Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review |
| CHAPTER: | Chaptered, #27 |
| BILL DATE: | June 26, 2026, Amended |
| SUBJECT: | Health |
| SPONSOR: | Author |

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION:

This was a "budget trailer bill" that enacted various statutory provisions to further health policy changes related to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 State Budget Act. As pertains to the Medical Board of California (Board), this bill added a section to the Medical Practice Act (Act) that authorizes, starting July 1, 2027, a qualified physician to receive two hours of credit (not to exceed eight hours) for each hour of authorized continuing medical education (CME) completed in perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopausal care.

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

- Report in the Board's newsletter (expected to be published by December 2026) and publish a separate newsletter article in this issue to highlight awareness of this law.

- Make appropriate changes to CME auditing procedures and update related Board website content.

BACKGROUND

CME is intended to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills and professional performance that physicians and surgeons use to provide or improve patient care.

The Act provides the Board with broad authority to establish CME standards and requirements, including requiring CME on certain topics. The Act also includes various general CME requirements, including, but not limited to cultural and linguistic competency and understanding implicit bias.

Additionally, the Act establishes, by statute, the following topical CME requirements:

- All general internists and family physicians who have a patient population of which over 25 percent of 65 years of age or older shall complete at least 20 percent of all mandatory continuing education hours in a course in the field of

geriatric medicine, in the special care needs of patients with dementia, or the care of older patients.

- All physicians and surgeons shall complete CME on a one-time basis in the amount of 12 credit hours on either of the following topics:
    - Pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients.
    - Treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients, which includes eight hours of training in buprenorphine, or similar medicinal treatment for opioid use disorders.

During the Board's February 26-27, 2026, Quarterly Meeting, the Board adopted a position of Support on proposed budget trailer bill language that is the same as the language included in SB 164.

ANALYSIS:

As it pertains to the Board, SB 164 added BPC section 2190.4, which reads as follows:

> (a) Beginning July 1, 2027, a qualifying physician and surgeon who completes continuing medical education courses in perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopausal care shall receive two hours of credit for each hour completed of that coursework, for a total earned credit that does not exceed eight course hours, toward the requirement set forth in Section 1336 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.
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> (b) For purposes of this section, "qualifying physician and surgeon" means a holder of a physician's and surgeon's certificate from the board who is certified by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties in internal medicine, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, neurological surgery, or psychiatry and whose patient population includes adult women under 65 years of age.

Language on this topic was added to the practice acts relevant to osteopathic physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners.

FISCAL: Minor and absorbable Board licensing, information technology, and communication costs are anticipated.

SUPPORT: None identified.

OPPOSITION: None identified.

ATTACHMENT: SB 164, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review. Health.
Version: 6/29/26 – Chaptered