MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER:	SB 1311
AUTHOR:	Wahab
CHAPTER:	Chaptered, #232
BILL DATE:	July 1, 2026, Amended
SUBJECT:	Licensed Professions
SPONSOR:	Author
POSITION:	Support

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

An urgency bill that makes various updates to certain practice acts for professions within the Department of Consumer Affairs, including changes to the timeframe for the Medical Board of California (Board) to receive applications for the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program (LPMP).

SB 1311 was not amended after the Board's prior meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

- Report in the Board's newsletter (expected to be published by December 2026).
- Update LPMP license review and issuance policies, as necessary.

BACKGROUND

AB 2860 (Chapter 246 of 2024 Statutes) replaced the prior pilot program with a revised LPMP (see Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2125) that authorizes the Board through the year 2045 to issue a restricted three-year nonrenewable Physician's and Surgeon's (P&S) License to qualified applicants to work in certain FQHCs.

LPMP applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be certified and in good standing with their medical specialty in Mexico in the fields of OB/GYN, internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, or psychiatry.
- Pass an interview developed by UNAM for their specialty area. Family practitioners who also perform OB/GYN services must also have performed 50 live birth deliveries. OB/GYNs must also be a fellow in good standing of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- Successfully complete an orientation program approved by the Board.

- Satisfactorily complete an approved English competency examination.
- Pay required fees to the Board.

LPMP licensees must complete 25 hours of Board-approved CME. Further, BPC 2125 states that only a specified number of individuals may hold a current and active LPMP license at any given time (e.g., no more than 155 between January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2029).

Further, BPC section 2125 sets forth specified timeframes for the Board to receive applications for licensure under the LPMP for the various authorized cohorts, as follows:

- Application timeframe for cohort #1: October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.
    - Secondary timeframe: The board may accept up to 15 applications after December 31, 2025, and before January 1, 2028.
- Application timeframe for cohort #2: October 1, 2029, to December 31, 2029.
    - Secondary timeframe: The board may accept up to 19 applications after December 31, 2029, and before January 1, 2032.
- Application timeframe for cohort #3: October 1, 2033, to December 31, 2033.
    - Secondary timeframe: The board may accept up to 22 applications after December 31, 2033, and before January 1, 2036.
- Application timeframe for cohort #4: October 1, 2037, to December 31, 2037.
    - Secondary timeframe: The board may accept up to 25 applications after December 31, 2037, and before January 1, 2040.
- Application timeframe for cohort #5: October 1, 2041, to December 31, 2041.
    - Secondary timeframe: The board may accept up to 27 applications after December 31, 2041, and before January 1, 2044.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a widely recognized examination and is one of the tests that LPMP applicants may satisfactorily complete to meet the requirements for licensure. Since the passage of AB 2860, as of January 2026, scores on the TOEFL iBT (one of the TOEFL test options) are displayed on a scale of 1-6. According to this webpage, TOEFL iBT scores will display the new and the prior scores (scale of 0-120) for approximately the next two years.

The Occupational English Test is another widely recognized examination for English language competency and is scored on a scale of 0 to 500.

As of May 12, 2026, the Board received 95 applications for the LPMP by the deadline of December 31, 2025, and two more after that date.

ANALYSIS

As it pertains to the Board, SB 1311 proposes adjusting the closure of the primary application timeframe for the applications received for cohort #1 from the LPMP from December 31, 2025, to July 1, 2026. In addition to the application timeframe adjustment, this bill corrects a drafting error relating to the passing score on the TOEFL.

FISCAL: No new costs to the Board.

SUPPORT: None identified related to the changes proposed to the LPMP.

OPPOSITION: None identified related to the changes proposed to the LPMP.

ATTACHMENT: SB 1311, Wahab. Licensed Professions.
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