

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 1909
AUTHOR: Gonzalez
BILL DATE: January 8, 2020, Introduced
SUBJECT: Healing Arts Licensees: Virginitv Examinations or
Tests
SPONSOR: Author
POSITION: Support

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION:

This bill would prohibit a healing arts licensee from performing an examination or test to determine whether the patient is a virgin.

BACKGROUND:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “virginity testing” has no scientific or clinical basis, “There is no examination that can prove a girl or woman has had sex. “Virginity testing” is a violation of the human rights of girls and women and can be detrimental to women’s and girls’ physical, psychological and social well-being.” According to WHO, “given that these procedures are unnecessary and potentially harmful, it is unethical for doctors or other health providers to undertake them. Such procedures must never be carried out.” On October 17, 2018, WHO, United Nations (UN) Human Rights and UN Women issued a statement calling for elimination of “virginity testing”.

ANALYSIS:

This bill would prohibit a healing arts licensee from performing an examination or test on a patient to determine whether the patient is a virgin. This bill would specify that a violation of the prohibition in this bill would constitute unprofessional conduct and would be grounds for disciplinary action by the appropriate licensing board. This bill would define a healing arts licensee as any person working within their scope of practice and engaging in acts that are the subject of licensure.

According to the author, “There is no medical reason for this examination. It’s time for California to listen to calls from the international community and ban this traumatizing, sexist and unnecessary practice.”

The type of exam that this bill is prohibiting has no scientific or clinical basis. For this reason, the Board has taken a support position on this bill.

FISCAL: Minor and absorbable

SUPPORT: Medical Board of California

OPPOSITION: None on File

ATTACHMENT: [AB 1909, Gonzalez. Healing arts licensees: virginity examinations or tests.](#)