

Item: 2026 Legislation of Interest

Item Summary: The following bills have been identified as legislation of interest, including SB 1304, for which the Executive Committee has taken a Support position and is now presenting to the Board for ratification, and AB 2096, for which the Board has already taken an Oppose position.

AB 1558 (Arambula) - Staff Recommended Position: WATCH

Title: Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

Status: Scheduled to be heard before the Senate Health Committee on 4/21/26.

This bill would establish a volunteer health practitioner registration system overseen in this state by the Emergency Medical Services Authority that would facilitate registered out-of-state volunteer health practitioners practicing in California without a California license. The relevant boards may restrict the services that may be provided by such volunteers. Boards may also impose administrative sanctions both on California licensees volunteering in other states and out-of-state volunteers practicing in this state.

AB 1775 (Ward) - Staff Recommended Position: WATCH

Title: Veterans

Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on 4/7/26.

This bill would restore benefits and status to veterans who were discharged from the armed services solely as a result of Executive Order No. 14183, banning transgender people from military service, issued on January 27, 2025. For the Department of Consumer Affairs, this would primarily affect licensure expediting for these individuals. California licensees volunteering in other states and out-of-state volunteers practicing in this state.

AB 2096 (Pacheco) - Board Position: OPPOSE

Title: Vocational nursing: respiratory care

Status: Referred to Assembly Business and Professions Committee on 3/9/26. No hearing scheduled.

AB 2096 would roll back recent statutory and regulatory changes related to the performance of respiratory care by licensed vocational nurses, effectively removing established guardrails and reintroducing greater flexibility in how respiratory care tasks may be performed by unauthorized personnel, raising concerns about consistency, oversight, and patient safety.

AB 2551 (Elhawary) - Staff Recommended Position: WATCH

Title: Health care coverage

Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on 4/9/26.

This bill would, among other things, expand workforce data collection by licensing boards to include information on whether providers are contracted with health plans and the types of insurance they accept, with the overall goal of improving insight into behavioral health access, affordability, and network adequacy.

SB 1226 (Ochoa Bogh) - Staff Recommended Position: OPPOSE

Title: Respiratory tasks

Status: Referred to Senate Business Professions and Economic Development and Education Committees. No hearings scheduled.

This bill would authorize individuals in school settings, if they have the qualifications and meet specified requirements for providing specialized physical health care services to an individual with exceptional needs, to provide a defined set of basic respiratory services to those individuals.

SB 1304 (Wahab) - Position To Be Ratified: SUPPORT

Title: Respiratory Care Practice Act: examination requirements

Status: Scheduled to be heard before the Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee on 4/20/26.

This is the sunset review bill for the Respiratory Care Board. The bill will:

- Establish mandatory suspension and subsequent revocation of a license upon conviction of specified serious felonies, with provisions to rescind if the conviction is overturned.
- Extend the Board's sunset date from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2031.
- Update licensure examination requirements to align with the National Board for Respiratory Care's Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.
- Clarify and expand exemptions allowing licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) to perform basic respiratory care tasks in defined settings under Board standards.
- Increase the license renewal fee ceiling amount and remove outdated provisions to maintain fiscal stability.