

Item: 2026 Legislation of Interest

Item Summary: Update on bills for which the Board has taken formal positions.

AB 1558 (Arambula) - Board Position: WATCH

Title: Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

Status: This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Suspense file and is dead.

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) - Board Position: WATCH

Title: Veterans

Status: Signed by the Governor on 9/26/2026, Chapter 467, Statutes of 2026.

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.

The bill would additionally require the department to prioritize veteran recipients, regardless of discharge status, who are able to demonstrate that their less than honorable characterization of service was connected to a behavioral health condition, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault or harassment, or sexual orientation or who are able to demonstrate their characterization of service was connected to gender identity.

AB 2096 (Pacheco) - Board Position: OPPOSE

Title: Vocational nursing: respiratory care

Status: This bill was never scheduled for hearing and is dead.

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) - Board Position: WATCH

Title: Equity in Higher Education: time, place, and manner policies: student code of conduct violations: open forum (formerly titled: Health care coverage)

Status: This bill was amended and no longer impacts DCA or its boards.

SB 1226 (Ochoa Bogh) - Board Position: OPPOSE

Title: Respiratory tasks

Status: This bill was never scheduled for hearing and is dead.

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) - Board Position: SUPPORT

Title: Respiratory Care Practice Act: examination requirements

Status: Signed by the Governor on 9/20/2026, Chapter 431, Statutes of 2026.

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.

July/August Amendments

- Clarified documentation and data-gathering activities to ensure they are not considered respiratory care when they do not involve analysis, interpretation, independent clinical decision-making, or respiratory assessment.
- Codified suctioning parameters consistent with Board guidance, providing greater statutory clarity regarding when oral, nasal, and tracheostomy suctioning may be performed without crossing into respiratory care requiring an RCP or other authorized practitioner.
- Clarified authority in school settings, allowing LVNs to perform specified suctioning and basic respiratory tasks under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse.