



Home	Bill Information	California Law	Publications	Other Resources	My Subscriptions	My Favorites
------	------------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------

Code:  Section:

[Up^](#) [Add To My Favorites](#)

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC**

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]** ( *Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399.*  )

**CHAPTER 4. Dentistry [1600 - 1976]** ( *Chapter 4 added by Stats. 1937, Ch. 415.*  )

**ARTICLE 2.7. Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program [1645.4- 1645.4.]** ( *Article 2.7 added by Stats. 2024, Ch. 246, Sec. 3.*  )

**1645.4.** (a) For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Board" means the Dental Board of California.
- (2) "Program" means the Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program.

(b) The Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program is hereby created.

(c) (1) This program continues the dentist component of the Licensed Physicians and Dentists Pilot Program, as established in former Section 853, which authorized no more than 30 dentists from Mexico to practice dentistry in California for a period not to exceed three years.

(2) The program shall also maintain an alternate list of program participants.

(d) The board shall issue a three-year nonrenewable permit to practice dentistry to each dentist from Mexico who meets the criteria set forth in this section.

(e) (1) Each dentist from Mexico who is eligible to participate in this program shall comply with the requirements specified in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, or the requirements contained in paragraph (2):

(A) Be a graduate from the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Faculty Dentistry (Facultad de Odontología).

(B) Meet all criteria required for licensure in Mexico that is required and being applied by the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Faculty Dentistry (Facultad de Odontología), including, but not limited to:

- (i) A minimum grade point average.
- (ii) A specified English language comprehension and conversational level.
- (iii) Passage of a general examination.
- (iv) Passage of an oral interview.

(C) Enroll and complete an orientation program that focuses on the following:

- (i) Practical issues in pharmacology that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.
- (ii) Practical issues and diagnosis in oral pathology that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.
- (iii) Clinical applications that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.

(iv) Biomedical sciences that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.

(v) Clinical history management that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.

(vi) Special patient care that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.

(vii) Sedation techniques that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.

(viii) Infection control guidelines that shall be taught by an instructor who is affiliated with a California dental school approved by the board.

(ix) Introduction to health care systems in California.

(x) Introduction to community clinic operations.

(2) (A) Graduate within the three-year period before enrollment in the program, from a foreign dental school that has received provisional approval or certification by November 2003 from the board under the Foreign Dental School Approval Program.

(B) Enroll and satisfactorily complete an orientation program that focuses on the health care system and community clinic operations in California.

(C) Enroll and satisfactorily complete a course taught by an approved foreign dental school on infection control approved by the board.

(3) Upon satisfactory completion to a competency level of the requirements in paragraph (1) or (2), each dentist participating in the program shall be eligible to obtain employment in a nonprofit community health center pursuant to subdivision (f) within the structure of an extramural dental program for a period not to exceed three years.

(4) Dentists participating in the program shall be required to complete the necessary continuing education units required by this chapter.

(5) The program shall accept 30 participating dentists. The program shall also maintain an alternate list of program applicants. If an active program participant leaves the program for any reason, a participating dentist from the alternate list shall be chosen to fill the vacancy. Only active program participants shall be required to complete the orientation program specified in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1).

(6) (A) Additionally, an extramural dental facility may be identified, qualified, and approved by the board as an adjunct to, and an extension of, the clinical and laboratory departments of an approved dental school.

(B) As used in this subdivision, "extramural dental facility" includes, but is not limited to, any clinical facility linked to an approved dental school for the purposes of monitoring or overseeing the work of a dentist licensed in Mexico participating in this program and that is employed by an approved dental school for instruction in dentistry that exists outside or beyond the walls, boundaries, or precincts of the primary campus of the approved dental school, and in which dental services are rendered. These facilities shall include nonprofit community health centers.

(C) Dental services provided to the public in these facilities shall constitute a part of the dental education program.

(D) Approved dental schools shall register extramural dental facilities with the board. This registration shall be accompanied by information supplied by the dental school pertaining to faculty supervision, scope of treatment to be rendered, arrangements for postoperative care, the name and location of the facility, the date operations shall commence at the facility, and a description of the equipment and facilities available. This information shall be supplemented with a copy of the agreement between the approved dental school and the affiliated institution establishing the contractual relationship. Any change in the information initially provided to the board shall be communicated to the board.

(7) The program shall also include issues dealing with program operations, and shall be developed in consultation with representatives of community clinics, approved dental schools, or the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Faculty Dentistry (Facultad de Odontología).

(8) The board shall provide oversight review of the implementation of this program and the evaluation required pursuant to subdivision (j). The board shall consult with dental schools in California that have applied for funding to implement and evaluate this program and executive and dental directors of nonprofit community health centers wanting to employ program participants, as

it conducts its oversight responsibilities of this program and evaluation. Implementation of this program may not proceed unless appropriate funding is secured from nonprofit philanthropic entities. The board shall report to the Legislature every January during which the program is operational regarding the status of the program and the ability of the program to secure the funding necessary to carry out its required provisions. Notwithstanding Section 11005 of the Government Code, the board may accept funds from nonprofit philanthropic entities.

(f) Nonprofit community health centers that employ participants shall be responsible for ensuring that participants are enrolled in local English-language instruction programs and that the participants attain English-language fluency at a level that would allow the participants to serve the English-speaking patient population when necessary and have the literacy level to communicate with appropriate hospital staff when necessary.

(g) For purposes of this program, the fee for a three-year nonrenewable dental permit shall be five hundred forty-eight dollars (\$548). A permitholder shall practice only in the nonprofit community health center that offered the permitholder employment and the corresponding hospital. This three-year nonrenewable permit shall be deemed to be a permit in good standing pursuant to the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of participation and reimbursement in all federal, state, and local health programs.

(h) The three-year nonrenewable permit shall terminate upon notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the permitholder's address of record, if, in the board's sole discretion, it has determined that either:

(1) The permit was issued by mistake.

(2) A complaint has been received by either board against the permitholder that warrants terminating the permit pending an investigation and resolution of the complaint.

(i) (1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 30, the board shall issue a three-year nonrenewable permit pursuant to this section to an applicant who has not provided an individual taxpayer identification number or social security number if the board staff determines the applicant is otherwise eligible for a permit only under the program pursuant to this section, subject to the following conditions:

(A) The applicant shall immediately seek both an appropriate three-year visa and the accompanying social security number from the United States government within 14 days of being issued a medical license under this section.

(B) The applicant shall immediately provide to the board a social security number obtained in accordance with subparagraph (A) within 10 days of the federal government issuing the social security card related to the issued visa.

(C) The applicant shall not engage in the practice of dentistry pursuant to this section until the board determines that the conditions in subparagraphs (A) and (B) have been met.

(2) The board, if it determines that an applicant has met the conditions in paragraph (1), shall notify the applicant that the applicant may engage in the practice of dentistry under the permit in accordance with this section.

(j) All applicable employment benefits, salary, and policies provided by nonprofit community health centers to their current employees shall be provided to medical and dental practitioners from Mexico participating in this pilot program. This shall include nonprofit community health centers providing malpractice insurance coverage.

(k) Beginning 12 months after this pilot program has commenced, an evaluation of the program shall be undertaken with funds provided from philanthropic foundations. The evaluation shall be conducted by one dental school in California and either the National Autonomous University of Mexico or a foreign dental school approved by board. If the evaluation required pursuant to this section does not begin within 15 months after the pilot project has commenced, the evaluation may be performed by an independent consultant selected by the Director of Consumer Affairs. This evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, the following issues and concerns:

(1) Quality of care provided by dentists under this pilot program.

(2) Adaptability of these practitioners to California dental standards.

(3) Impact on working and administrative environments in nonprofit community health centers and impact on interpersonal relations with medical licensed counterparts in health centers.

(4) Response and approval by patients.

(5) Impact on cultural and linguistic services.

(6) Increases in medical encounters provided by participating practitioners to limited-English-speaking patient populations and increases in the number of limited-English-speaking patients seeking health care services from nonprofit community health centers.

(7) Recommendations on whether the program should be continued, expanded, altered, or terminated.

(8) Progress reports on available data listed shall be provided to the Legislature on achievable time intervals beginning in the second year of implementation of this pilot program. An interim final report shall be issued three months before termination of this pilot program. A final report shall be submitted to the Legislature at the time of termination of this pilot program on all of the above-described data. The final report shall reflect and include how other initiatives concerning the development of culturally and linguistically competent medical and dental providers within California and the United States are impacting communities in need of these health care providers.

(l) Costs for administering this pilot program shall be secured from philanthropic entities.

(m) Program applicants shall be responsible for working with the governments of Mexico and the United States in order to obtain the necessary three-year visa required for program participation.

*(Added by Stats. 2024, Ch. 246, Sec. 3. (AB 2860) Effective January 1, 2025.)*