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AB-2487 Physicians and surgeons: continuing education: opiate-dependent patient treatment and management. (2017-2018)

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Date Published: 09/07/2018 09:00 PM

Assembly Bill No. 2487

CHAPTER 301

An act to add Section 2190.6 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

[Approved by Governor September 07, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 07, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2487, McCarty. Physicians and surgeons: continuing education: opiate-dependent patient treatment and management.

Existing state law, the Medical Practice Act, establishes the Medical Board of California within the Department of Consumer Affairs. The board is responsible for the licensure and regulation of physicians and surgeons, and is required by the act to adopt and administer standards for the continuing education of those physicians and surgeons. Existing law requires all physicians and surgeons to complete a mandatory continuing education course on pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients, as provided.

Existing federal law, the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act of 2016, requires physicians and surgeons who dispense narcotic drugs for patient treatment to obtain a separate registration from the United States Attorney General. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration, within the federal Office of the Attorney General, administers the registration and requires physicians and surgeons to renew that registration at specified intervals. A physician and surgeon qualifies for a waiver of the registration if he or she is licensed under state law and completes at least one specified training, such as 8 hours of training in the treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients.

This bill would authorize a physician and surgeon to complete a one-time continuing education course on opiate-dependent patient treatment and management, as specified, as an alternative to the mandatory continuing education course on pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 2190.6 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2190.6. (a) As an alternative to Section 2190.5, a physician and surgeon may complete a one-time continuing education course of 12 credit hours in the subjects of treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients, including eight hours of training in buprenorphine treatment, or other similar medicinal treatment, for opioid use disorders.

(b) A physician and surgeon who meets the requirements, as determined by the board, of a "qualifying physician" under clause (ii) of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (2) of subsection (g) of Section 823 of Title 21 of the United States Code, the Comprehensive

Addiction Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198), as that clause read on January 1, 2018, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subdivision (a).

(c) A physician and surgeon who chooses to comply with this section as an alternative to Section 2190.5 shall complete the requirements of this section by his or her next license renewal date.

(d) The board shall determine whether a physician and surgeon has met the requirements of this section.