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AB-967 Physicians and surgeons: licensure: expedite fee. (2025-2026)

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Date Published: 04/23/2025 09:00 PM

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 967

Introduced by Assembly Member Valencia

February 20, 2025

An act to add ~~Section 2438 to~~ and *repeal Section 2438 of* the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 967, as amended, Valencia. Physicians and surgeons: licensure: expedite fee.

Existing law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs under the direction of the Director of Consumer Affairs and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the administration of the various boards, including the Medical Board of California, under its jurisdiction that license and regulate various professions and vocations.

Existing law requires a board to expedite the licensure process for certain applicants, including an applicant who has a specified relationship with an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as prescribed, and holds a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States in the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a license from the board.

Existing law establishes the Medical Board of California to enforce the licensing and regulatory provisions relating to physicians and surgeons. Existing law imposes various fees on applicants for licensure of physicians and surgeons, including an application and processing fee of \$625 to be paid by an applicant for a certificate based on reciprocity, and an applicant for a certificate based upon written examination, as specified. Under existing law, all moneys paid to and received by the board are required to be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the Contingent Fund of the Medical Board of California. Existing law requires moneys in that fund to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as provided.

This bill would require the Medical Board of California to expedite the licensure process for an applicant who submits an application that is accompanied ~~by~~ *by, among other things, payment of* an expedite fee fixed by the ~~board~~. ~~The bill would require the board to fix the expedite fee~~ *board* at an amount equal to the cost of expediting the licensure process, ~~but~~ not to exceed \$250, as specified. *The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.*

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

SECTION 1. Section 2438 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2438. (a) The board shall expedite the licensure process for an applicant who submits an application that is accompanied by ~~an expedite fee fixed by the board.~~

~~(b)~~ *The board shall fix the* ~~all of the following:~~

(1) Payment of an expedite fee fixed by the board at an amount equal to the cost of expediting the licensure process for applicants applying under subdivision (a), but the fee shall not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(2) Proof of an active and unrestricted license issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States to practice medicine.

(3) Documentation demonstrating that the applicant intends to provide direct patient care in this state within 90 days of the date of the application, including, but not limited to, a letter from an employer or health care entity indicating all of the following:

(A) The applicant has accepted employment or entered into a contract to provide direct patient care.

(B) The applicant's starting date.

(C) The location where the applicant will be providing direct patient care.

~~(e)~~

(b) (1) This section does not change any existing licensure requirements.

(2) An applicant applying for expedited licensure under subdivision (a) shall meet all applicable statutory and regulatory licensure requirements.

~~(d)~~

(c) (1) This section does not require an applicant applying for expedited licensure pursuant to Sections 115.4, 115.5, 135.4, 870, and 2092 to pay the expedite fee established in subdivision (a).

(2) Applications submitted under this section shall not take priority over applications for expedited licensure under any of the sections described in this subdivision.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030, and as of that date is repealed.