

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 6, 2011
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: Board of Behavioral Sciences

BILL NUMBER: SB 704
AUTHOR: G. Negrete McLeod

BILL SUMMARY: Healing Arts: Licensees: Board of Behavioral Sciences

This bill would revise and recast provisions related to licensing examinations for the following licensees: marriage and family therapist (MFT), MFT intern, professional clinical counselor (PCC), clinical social worker (CSW), and associate social worker (ASW). This bill would also make technical conforming changes.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Consumer Affairs indicates that the provisions of this bill would have no fiscal impact on the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board) as their budget includes funding for the continuous development of examinations.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill and has no fiscal concerns.

Existing law requires applicants for MFT or CSW licensure to take and pass a standard written examination and a clinical vignette examination upon meeting eligibility requirements and prior to licensure. Existing law also requires the Board to register and regulate MFT interns and ASWs. Beginning January 1, 2014, examination requirements for MFTs and CSWs would have changed based on previously enacted legislation.

This bill would repeal the requirements that would have taken effect on January 1, 2014 and would instead, effective January 1, 2013, require applicants for MFT, PCC, or CSW licensure to pass a California law and ethics examination and a clinical examination. This bill would also require MFT and PCC interns and ASWs to take the California law and ethics examination in the first year after they are registered with the Board and to take the clinical examination when supervised work experience and education requirements are complete.

This bill specifies legislative intent that the Board evaluates a national licensing examination for both MFTs and CSWs and authorizes the Board to adopt the national exam for use as the clinical examination.

Analyst/Principal (0280) J. Carosone	Date	Assistant Program Budget Manager Nona Martinez	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	
1110/ConAfr-ReqBd	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0773
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0773	Behavioral Science Examiners Fund								