

Assembly Bill No. 1586

CHAPTER 509

An act to add Sections 2425.1 and 2425.3 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to the healing arts.

[Approved by Governor October 4, 2001. Filed with Secretary of State October 4, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1586, Negrete McLeod. Healing arts: physicians and surgeons.

The Medical Practice Act provides for the licensure by the Medical Board of California of physicians and surgeons as well as other healing arts practitioners. The act requires each licensed physician to complete a questionnaire sent to him or her at the time of license renewal that seeks specified information.

This bill would additionally require each licensed physician to report to the board at the time of license renewal, any specialty board certification he or she holds and his or her practice status. The bill would authorize a physician to report to the board his or her cultural background and foreign language proficiency.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2425.1 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2425.1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Currently, California is experiencing an access to health care crisis that, in large measure, is the result of medical group insolvency, health facility closures, low or no reimbursement rates, and an increasing number of uninsured.

(b) Adding to the access to health care crisis is a state population that is growing in cultural and linguistic diversity as well as in absolute numbers.

(c) On paper, California appears to have an adequate number of physicians in most areas of the state. California, however, does not have data indicating the cultural and linguistic background of licensed physicians, how many physicians are actively practicing medicine, how many physicians are practicing part time, how many physicians have retired from practice, or how many physicians have moved into administrative positions and no longer treat patients.



(d) In order to fully understand and cope with California's access to health care crisis, it is necessary to collect data concerning the status and scope of practice of California's licensed physicians as well as his or her cultural and linguistic background.

SEC. 2. Section 2425.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2425.3. (a) The Medical Board of California shall request that a licensed physician report to the board at the time of license renewal any specialty board certification he or she holds issued by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties or approved by the Medical Board of California.

(b) A licensed physician shall also report to the board at the time of license renewal, his or her practice status, designated as one of the following:

- (1) Full-time practice in California.
- (2) Full-time practice outside of California.
- (3) Part-time practice in California.
- (4) Medical administrative employment that does not include direct patient care.
- (5) Retired.
- (6) Other practice status, as may be further defined by the Division of Licensing.

(c) A licensed physician may report to the board at the time of license renewal, and the board shall collect, information regarding his or her cultural background and foreign language proficiency.

(d) The information collected pursuant to this section may be placed on the board's Internet Web site.

(e) This section shall be implemented on or before July 1, 2003.

