

## Senate Bill No. 1246

### CHAPTER 397

An act to amend Sections 4928, 4934, 4935, 4938, 4944, 4949, and 4970 of, to amend and repeal Section 4973 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 4939 of, to add Section 4933.5 to, and to add and repeal Section 4927.5 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to acupuncture.

[Approved by Governor September 17, 2014. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 17, 2014.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1246, Lieu. Acupuncture.

(1) Existing law, the Acupuncture Licensure Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of acupuncture by the Acupuncture Board, within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law authorizes the board, with the approval of the Director of Consumer Affairs, to employ personnel necessary to administer the Acupuncture Licensure Act, including an executive officer who is exempt from civil service. Existing law repeals the provisions establishing the board and authority for it to employ personnel on January 1, 2015.

This bill would remove the repeal date with respect to the board's authority to employ personnel. The bill would also extend the operation of the board and the board's authority to appoint an executive officer exempt from civil service until January 1, 2017.

(2) Existing law requires the board to establish standards for the approval of schools and colleges offering education and training in the practice of an acupuncturist, as specified. Existing law requires a school or college approved by the board, within 3 years of board approval, to receive full institutional approval to operate from the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education or comparable approval by a governmental authority outside of the state, as applicable. Existing law requires the board to issue a license to practice acupuncture to a person who files an application, pays a fee, and among other requirements, completes an educational and training program approved by the board.

This bill would delete the requirement that schools and colleges offering education and training in the practice of an acupuncturist obtain those approvals within 3 years of board approval. Commencing January 1, 2017, the bill would eliminate the requirement that the board approve those schools and colleges offering education and training in the practice of an acupuncturist and would instead define an "approved educational and training program," for purposes of licensure as an acupuncturist, as a school or college that: (A) offers curriculum that has been submitted to and approved by the board and includes at least 3,000 hours of which at least 2,050 hours

are didactic and laboratory training, and at least 950 hours are supervised clinical instruction; (B) is approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education or is the appropriate out-of-state governmental educational authority; and (C) is accredited or granted candidacy status by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, or has submitted a letter of intent to pursue accreditation to that commission, as specified.

This bill would require the board, within 30 days of receiving curriculum submitted by a school or college pursuant to these provisions, to review the curriculum, determine whether the curriculum satisfies the board's requirements, and notify the school or college, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, and the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education of whether the board has approved the curriculum. The bill would authorize the board to review and evaluate the educational training and clinical experience of a school or college that has submitted a letter of intent to pursue accreditation to, or was granted candidacy status by, the commission, but was subsequently denied candidacy status or accreditation, respectively, by the commission, to determine whether to waive the requirement that an applicant who attended that program complete an approved educational and training program.

This bill would also require the board to establish standards for the approval of educational training and clinical experience received outside the United States and Canada, and would make related conforming changes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4927.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4927.5. (a) For purposes of this chapter, "approved educational and training program" means a program approved by the board pursuant to Section 4939.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. Section 4927.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4927.5. (a) For purposes of this chapter, "approved educational and training program" means a school or college offering education and training in the practice of an acupuncturist that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) Offers curriculum that includes at least 3,000 hours of which at least 2,050 hours are didactic and laboratory training, and at least 950 hours are supervised clinical instruction. Has submitted that curriculum to the board, and has received board approval of the curriculum.

(2) Has received full institutional approval under Article 6 (commencing with Section 94885) of Chapter 8 of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the

Education Code in the field of traditional Asian medicine, or in the case of institutions located outside of this state, approval by the appropriate governmental educational authority using standards equivalent to those of Article 6 (commencing with Section 94885) of Chapter 8 of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code.

(3) Meets any of the following:

(A) Is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

(B) Has been granted candidacy status by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

(C) Has submitted a letter of intent to pursue accreditation to the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine within 30 days of receiving full institutional approval pursuant to paragraph (2), and is granted candidacy status within three years of the date that letter was submitted.

(b) Within 30 days after receiving curriculum pursuant to paragraph (1), the board shall review the curriculum, determine whether the curriculum satisfies the requirements established by the board, and notify the school or college, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, and Bureau of Private and Postsecondary Education of whether the board has approved the curriculum.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2017.

SEC. 3. Section 4928 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4928. (a) The Acupuncture Board, which consists of seven members, shall enforce and administer this chapter.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, the repeal of this section renders the board subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

SEC. 4. Section 4933.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4933.5. The board, by and with the approval of the director, may employ personnel necessary for the administration of this chapter.

SEC. 5. Section 4934 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4934. (a) The board, by and with the approval of the director, may appoint an executive officer who is exempt from the State Civil Service Act (Part 2 (commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 6. Section 4935 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4935. (a) (1) It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment, for any person who does not hold a current and valid license to practice acupuncture under this chapter or to hold himself or herself out as practicing or engaging in the practice of acupuncture.

(2) It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment, for any person to fraudulently buy, sell, or obtain a license to practice acupuncture, or to violate the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, any person, other than a physician and surgeon, a dentist, or a podiatrist, who is not licensed under this article but is licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500), who practices acupuncture involving the application of a needle to the human body, performs any acupuncture technique or method involving the application of a needle to the human body, or directs, manages, or supervises another person in performing acupuncture involving the application of a needle to the human body is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) A person holds himself or herself out as engaging in the practice of acupuncture by the use of any title or description of services incorporating the words “acupuncture,” “acupuncturist,” “certified acupuncturist,” “licensed acupuncturist,” “Asian medicine,” “oriental medicine,” or any combination of those words, phrases, or abbreviations of those words or phrases, or by representing that he or she is trained, experienced, or an expert in the field of acupuncture, Asian medicine, or Chinese medicine.

(d) Subdivision (a) shall not prohibit a person from administering acupuncture treatment as part of his or her educational training if he or she:

(1) Is engaged in a course or tutorial program in acupuncture, as provided in this chapter; or

(2) Is a graduate of an approved educational and training program and participating in a postgraduate review course that does not exceed one year in duration at an approved educational and training program.

SEC. 7. Section 4938 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4938. The board shall issue a license to practice acupuncture to any person who makes an application and meets the following requirements:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age.

(b) Furnishes satisfactory evidence of completion of one of the following:

(1) (A) An approved educational and training program.

(B) If an applicant began his or her educational and training program at a school or college that submitted a letter of intent to pursue accreditation to, or attained candidacy status from, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, but the commission subsequently denied the school or college candidacy status or accreditation, respectively, the board may review and evaluate the educational training and clinical

experience to determine whether to waive the requirements set forth in this subdivision with respect to that applicant.

(2) Satisfactory completion of a tutorial program in the practice of an acupuncturist which is approved by the board.

(3) In the case of an applicant who has completed education and training outside the United States and Canada, documented educational training and clinical experience that meets the standards established pursuant to Sections 4939 and 4941.

(c) Passes a written examination administered by the board that tests the applicant's ability, competency, and knowledge in the practice of an acupuncturist. The written examination shall be developed by the Office of Professional Examination Services of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

(d) Is not subject to denial pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475).

(e) Completes a clinical internship training program approved by the board. The clinical internship training program shall not exceed nine months in duration and shall be located in a clinic in this state, which is an approved educational and training program. The length of the clinical internship shall depend upon the grades received in the examination and the clinical training already satisfactorily completed by the individual prior to taking the examination. On and after January 1, 1987, individuals with 800 or more hours of documented clinical training shall be deemed to have met this requirement. The purpose of the clinical internship training program shall be to ensure a minimum level of clinical competence.

Each applicant who qualifies for a license shall pay, as a condition precedent to its issuance and in addition to other fees required, the initial licensure fee.

SEC. 8. Section 4939 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4939. (a) The board shall establish standards for the approval of schools and colleges offering education and training in the practice of an acupuncturist, including standards for the faculty in those schools and colleges, completion of which will satisfy the requirements of Section 4938.

(b) Standards for the approval of schools and colleges described in subdivision (a) shall include a minimum of 3,000 hours of study in curriculum pertaining to the practice of an acupuncturist. This subdivision shall apply to all students entering programs on or after January 1, 2005.

(c) Each school or college approved by the board shall receive full institutional approval under Article 6 (commencing with Section 94885) of Chapter 8 of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code in the field of traditional Asian medicine, or in the case of institutions located outside of this state, approval by the appropriate governmental educational authority using standards equivalent to those of Article 6 (commencing with Section 94885) of Chapter 8 of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code, or the board's approval of the program shall automatically lapse.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 9. Section 4939 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4939. (a) The board shall establish standards for the approval of educational training and clinical experience received outside the United States and Canada.

(b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2017.

SEC. 10. Section 4944 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4944. (a) The board shall have the authority to investigate and evaluate each and every applicant applying for a license to practice acupuncture and to make the final determination of the admission of the applicant to the examination, or for the issuance of a license, in conformance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) The board shall investigate and evaluate each school or college applying for approval under Section 4939 and may utilize and contract with consultants to evaluate those training programs. This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1, 2017.

(c) The board may delegate to the executive officer or other official of the board its authority under this section in routine matters.

SEC. 11. Section 4949 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4949. The provisions of this chapter shall not prohibit an acupuncturist from another state or country, who is not a licensed acupuncturist in this state, who is the invited guest of a professional acupuncture association or scientific acupuncture foundation, an approved educational and training program, or a continuing education provider that is approved under Section 4945, solely from engaging in professional education through lectures, clinics, or demonstrations. The guest acupuncturist may engage in the practice of acupuncture in conjunction with these lectures, clinics, or demonstrations for a maximum of six months, but may not open an office or appoint a place to meet patients or receive calls from patients or otherwise engage in the practice of acupuncture.

SEC. 12. Section 4970 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4970. The amount of fees prescribed for licensed acupuncturists shall be those set forth in this section unless a lower fee is fixed by the board in accordance with Section 4972:

(a) The application fee shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75).

(b) The examination and reexamination fees shall be the actual cost to the Acupuncture Board for the development and writing of, grading, and administering of each examination.

(c) The initial license fee shall be three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325), except that if the license will expire less than one year after its

issuance, then the initial license fee shall be an amount equal to 50 percent of the initial license fee.

(d) The renewal fee shall be three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) and in the event a lower fee is fixed by the board, shall be an amount sufficient to support the functions of the board in the administration of this chapter. The renewal fee shall be assessed on an annual basis until January 1, 1996, and on and after that date the board shall assess the renewal fee biennially.

(e) The delinquency fee shall be set in accordance with Section 163.5.

(f) The application fee for the approval of a school or college under Section 4939 shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000). This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1, 2017.

(g) The duplicate wall license fee is an amount equal to the cost to the board for the issuance of the duplicate license.

(h) The duplicate renewal receipt fee is ten dollars (\$10).

(i) The endorsement fee is ten dollars (\$10).

(j) The fee for a duplicate license for an additional office location as required under Section 4961 shall be fifteen dollars (\$15).

SEC. 13. Section 4973 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4973. (a) A fee for the inspection or reinspection of a school or college of acupuncture for purposes of approval or continued approval shall be charged at an amount to recover the direct costs incurred by the board in conducting that inspection and evaluation of the school or college.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.