

The mission of the California State Board of Optometry is to protect the health and safety of California consumers through licensing, registration, education, and regulation of the practice of Optometry and Opticianry.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Jeffrey Garcia, O.D., President
 Eunie Linden, J.D., Vice President
 Stacy Bragg, O.D., Secretary
 Alex Clemens, Public Member
 Paul Hsu, Public Member
 Robert Klepa, J.D., Public Member
 Joseph Pruitt, O.D.
 Martin Dawson, SLD/CLD
 Lillian Wang, O.D.
 Vacant Governor Appointee,
 Professional Member Vacant
 Governor Appointee, Public Member
 Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer



**JULY 11, 2025
 FINAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**PHYSICAL LOCATION:
 Department of Consumer
 Affairs Hearing Room
 1625 North Market Blvd.
 Sacramento, California 95834**

**Remote attendance via WebEx
 provided for the public.**

Members Present	Staff Present
President Garcia, O.D. (in-person)	Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer (in-person)
Vice President Linden, J.D. (in-person)	Erica Bautista, Administrative Coordinator (in-person)
Secretary Bragg, O.D. (in-person)	Brad Garding, Enforcement Manager (remote)
Member Clemens (in-person)	Ravin Chand, Enforcement Analyst (remote)
Member Pruitt, O.D. (in-person)	Brennan Meier, Legal Counsel (in-person)
Member Wang, O.D. (in-person)	
Member Dawson, SLD/CLD (in-person)	
Members Absent	Guests
Member Hsu	On File
Member Klepa	

Open session of this Board Meeting was webcast.
 A recording of the webcast is available at: <https://youtu.be/qpeqmltL9WU>

1. Call to Order / Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Audio of Discussion: [0:02](#)

President Jeffrey Garcia called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was run according to the Open Meetings Act. President Garcia stated the Board’s mission, vision, and values. Secretary Stacy Bragg took roll call, and a quorum was established. Member Robert Klepa and Member Paul Hsu were absent. Member Hsu observed the open parts of the meeting but did not participate in the meeting or provide any subsequent comment.

2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting [Government Code Sections [11125](#), [11125.3](#), [11125.7\(a\)](#)].

Audio of Discussion: [2:43](#)

Public comment was heard from Ruby Garcia, Executive Officer of the California State Society for Opticians (CSSO); she thanked Executive Officer, Gregory Pruden, Board staff for its licensing processes and occupational analysis. She thanked many others who have shared in the development of the CSSO apprenticeship program.

Ari Serwin representing the CSSO shared some developments on the program, including a new continuing education initiative, guided study through the professional code of conduct (on the Board of Optometry’s website), and coursework that includes detailed lessons on the laws and regulations related to contact and spectacle lens dispensing.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Meeting Minutes

A. April 11, 2025, Board meeting

B. June 9, 2025, Board Meeting

Audio of Discussion: [8:03](#)

The public did not provide any comments.

Member Clemens moved to approve the April 11, 2025, Board meeting draft minutes as written. Dr. Wang seconded. The Board voted (6-Aye; 0-No; 1-Abstain) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens	X				

Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt			X		
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to approve the June 9, 2025 Board meeting draft minutes as written. Joseph Pruitt seconded. The Board voted (5-Aye; 0-No; 2-Abstain) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens			X		
Member Dawson			X		
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Department of Consumer Affairs Update

- A. Executive Office
- B. Budget Office
 - i. Fund Condition

Audio of Discussion: [11:23](#)

Ian Gollihur with the Division of Legislative Affairs provided a Department of Consumer Affairs update. He reported on the Governor’s reorganization plan. In January Governor Newsom proposed his 2025-2026 state budget, which included a proposal to split DCA’s oversight agency (Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency) into two agencies – the California Housing and Homelessness Agency and the Business and Consumer Services Agency. This reorganization plan was enacted on July 5th. DCA will be among the eight departments in this new agency. The two new agencies will become officially operative on July 1, 2026.

On March 3, 2025, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order directing all state agencies and departments to update their hybrid telework policies increasing employees' in-office work from two to four days per week beginning on July 1, 2025. At the end of June agreements with several labor unions were released, delaying the 4-day in-office requirements by one year.

On June 9, 2025, the Department of Finance issued guidance for out-of-state travel in the upcoming fiscal year. Travel outside of California will be limited to essential travel that is required to conduct state business. Requests should only be made for mission critical needs.

Budget Analysts, Nicole Dragu and Brendan Vu reported on the Board's revenues, expenditures, and fund condition. The Board began 2023-2024 with a balance of 1.765 million and collected 2,787 million in revenues with \$331,000 from initial license fees, 2.15 million from license renewals, and \$306,000 collected from the issuance of citations, fines, delinquent fees and other revenue. For current year 2024-2025, the Board projects revenues of 3.306 million with \$414,000 projected from initial license fees, 2.621 million from renewal fees, and \$271,000 from the issuance of citations, fines, delinquent fees and other revenue. The Board's 2024-2025 expenditures are based on the Governor's budget with FM11 projections at 3.338 million between authorized expenditures and direct draws to the fund, leaving the Board with the fund balance of approximately 2.899 million or 8.1 months in reserve.

Executive Officer, Gregory Pruden noted that the Board will not see the "full picture" of its budget condition for the last fiscal year until the activities in fiscal month 13 are accounted for.

Ms. Dragu explained that the Accounting closes the books at the end of fiscal month 12 (about a week prior to the end of June). Throughout July, Accounting works to resolve any matters that are still pending which could result in more expenditures or credits. Fiscal month 13 comes out mid-August; at that point and time, Accounting will have the actual numbers to provide the final analysis.

Currently, the Board is projecting a small deficit of about \$32,000.

The public did not provide any comments.

Public Petition Hearing – Time Certain Start of 10:00 a.m.

5. Petition for Reinstatement

A. Erasmo Soria (#4599)

Audio of Discussion: [25:18](#)

Administrative Law Judge, Matthew Block presided over the hearing. Deputy Attorney General, Megan Bright represented the people of the State of California.

Petitioner, Erasmo Soria represented himself.

6. Closed Session

- A. Pursuant to Government Code, section 11126, subd. (c)(3), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session for Discussion, Deliberation, and Possible Action on Disciplinary Matters

Board members moved into closed session to deliberate on the matter.

At 11:45 a.m. the Board reconvened into open session. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Board President’s Report

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Board Member Handbook Workgroup
- B. Discussion and Possible Action on 2026 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule

Audio of Discussion: [1:06:05](#)

The Board Member Handbook has not been updated in five years. Staff was asked to come back to a future Board meeting with a plan to revise it. E.O. Pruden stated that staff has good examples from sister boards and does not believe the handbook does not need much reinvention. Rather it may be useful to borrow from other boards good work. He noted that this is a collaborative effort, and staff would rely upon legal counsel to assist. A two-member workgroup is requested, and staff member, Erica Bautista will be the liaison for this workgroup. E.O. Pruden suggested that Vice President Linden and Member Clemens would be good candidates for the workgroup.

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to establish a two-member workgroup called the Board Member Handbook Workgroup tasked with collecting, reviewing, and analyzing existing board member handbooks used by other boards, working with other units within the Department of Consumer Affairs and reviewing, revising, and redesigning the Board’s existing 2019 handbook. The workgroup shall submit a draft handbook for Board approval at the first Board meeting of 2026, and the two members of the Workgroup shall be Member Alex Clemens and Vice President Eunie Linden. Member Martin Dawson seconded. The Board voted unanimously (7-Aye; 0-No) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				

Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

President Garcia presented the proposed 2026 meeting dates as follows:

Board meeting dates

- January 23
- April 10
- July 10
- October 23 (Southern California)

Committee meeting dates

- February 13
- May 1
- August 7
- November 13

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to accept the 2026 meeting dates. Joseph Pruitt seconded. The Board voted unanimously (7-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				

Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2025 Legislation Impacting the Board, DCA, and/or the Optometry or Opticianry Profession

A. Discussion and Possible Action on 2025 Legislation

- i. AB 667 (Solache) Professions and Vocations: license examinations: interpreters
- ii. SB 351 (Cabaldon) Health facilities
- iii. SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing
- iv. SB 641 (Ashby) Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions
- v. SB 776 (Ashby) Optometry: licensure

Audio of Discussion: [1:17:31](#)

E.O. Pruden provided an update on 2025 Legislation impacting the Board, optometry, opticianry and DCA.

AB 667

This bill does not impact the Board presently. The Board continues to watch for any further changes. No position is necessary currently.

SB 351

This bill is in the Assembly. It does not presently impact the Board. It would prohibit private equity group or hedge fund involved in any manner with a physician or dental practice doing business in this state from interfering with the professional judgement of those physicians and dentists in terms of their healthcare decisions. Many of its provisions would seem to be applicable to optometry and opticianry, but it does not appear that the bill will be amended this year to include any of those optometry/opticianry related provisions. The Board may wish to bring forth its own legislation next year, as it does not appear optometry will successfully be added to this bill.

SB 470

This bill extends the sunset date to 2030 on certain teleconferencing provisions under Bagley-Keene that are currently set to expire on January 1, 2026.

E.O. Pruden further clarified that he had incorrectly included in the Members materials that the Board's position was support. Member Clemens had requested that the Board hold its position for further discussion at this meeting to try and understand more detail, the source, or the opposition, and where they are coming from. The opposition is made up of a loose coalition of different organizations that

would like to see this bill amended to be more consistent with how the open meeting provisions apply for local governments. There is a different section of law (the Brown Act) which is applicable to local government bodies; not state government bodies. Under the Brown Act there is more of a limitation on the remote option that is available to members at the local government level which is limited to emergencies and other documented type of situation compared to the remote option in the Board of Optometry’s law. This bill, by extending the date out for those provisions, would allow for flexibility to continue. Suggested staff position would be to support this bill.

Member Clemens inquired whether DCA could take a position on this rather than the individual boards. E.O. Pruden stated that he is not aware of any boards having taken an opposed position; additionally, it is rare for the Department to take positions on any legislation, and he is not aware of the Department having taken a position on this legislation. Generally, it is the purview of the boards.

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to support SB 470. Martin Dawson seconded. The Board voted (6-Aye; 1-No) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens		X			
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

SB 641

This bill provides boards the ability to issue waivers and exemptions to their laws when a disaster strikes. It is the Senate response to the devastating fires that occurred in Southern California. It is an attempt to allow for boards to have flexibility when it makes sense for them to engage in a waiver and exemption process. In E.O. Pruden’s opinion, this would be an important authority for the Board to have in its toolkit.

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to approve SB 641. Martin Dawson seconded. The Board voted unanimously (7-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

The meeting took a short break and reconvened at 12:19 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

SB 776

The bill is the Board’s sunset bill. It was up for hearing in the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions this week (on July 8). E.O. Pruden personally attended the hearing and testified regarding the bill and its provisions. Staff hopes (during this meeting) to reaffirm a support position on this most recent form of the bill.

The public did not provide any comments.

Stacy Bragg moved to support the most recent version of SB 776. Lillian Wang seconded. The Board voted unanimously (7-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	
Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				

President Garcia	X				
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The public did not provide any comments.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Dispensing Optician Workgroup Recommendation

Audio of Discussion: [1:42:48](#)

The Board discussed the history and structure of the Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC), a statutorily created committee within the Board, at the February 14, 2025, regular board meeting. The DOC has not met in over four (4) years because of lack of quorum. The DOC and its relevance and future had also been raised by the Legislature as part of the Board’s ongoing sunset review process. At the February 14, 2025 board meeting, the Board created a two-member workgroup and appointed Dr. Lillian Wang, OD and Martin Dawson, CLD/SLD as members assigned to the workgroup. The workgroup was tasked with making recommendations to the Board regarding the purpose, function, and future of the DOC and the workgroup was tasked with bringing a recommendation to the Board. Since the DOC must have a quorum of members to meet to be able to fulfill its purpose, the Workgroup focused its initial efforts on changing the statutory scheme so that the DOC could be constituted with members. The Workgroup proposes reducing the DOC membership from five to three members and giving the Board the power to appoint members instead of the Governor, with one member being a registered dispensing optician, one member being a registered spectacle lens dispenser or contact lens dispenser, and the third member would be either a public member or a licensed optometrist that currently sits on the Board. At least one of the three members would be a sitting board member. The Workgroup believes these changes would enable the DOC to be constituted with members and enable the DOC to achieve its statutorily created purpose.

Public comment was received from Ruby Garcia who provided a brief history of the DOC.

Eunie Linden moved to authorize Executive Officer Pruden to engage in conversations with the Legislature and the Administration in a manner consistent with the recommendations and language put forth by the DOC Workgroup. Lillian Wang seconded. The Board voted unanimously (7-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu				X	
Member Klepa				X	

Dr. Pruitt	X				
Dr. Wang	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
President Garcia	X				

The meeting to a 45-minute lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Executive Officer’s Report

- A. Program Update
- B. Enforcement Program
 - i. Statistical Review, Quarter 4, Fiscal Year 2024-25
 - ii. Continuing Education Audit Statistics
- C. Examination and Licensing Programs
 - i. Statistical Review, Quarter 4, Fiscal Year 2024-25
 - ii. California Law and Regulations Exam Statistics Fiscal Year 2024-25
- D. Regulatory Update
 - i. Optometry Disciplinary Guidelines
 - ii. Optician Program Omnibus Regulatory Changes
 - iii. Dispensing Optician Disciplinary Guidelines
 - iv. Requirements for Glaucoma Certification
 - v. Radiofrequency Technology and Devices

Audio of Discussion: [2:01:37](#)

E.O. Pruden provided a program update on the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) Fiscal Year 2025-2026 contract. Business and Professions (B&P) Code, section 139 mandates that licensure examinations be developed based on an occupational analysis conducted approximately every 5-years, and that examinations be regularly evaluated for validity and fairness. OPES is the internal resource for licensure examination evaluation and development for the boards and bureaus within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In addition to performing occupational analyses, OPES performs annual examination development of the California Law and Regulations Exam (CLRE), including administering exam writing and reviewing workshops. The Board last performed an occupational analysis of the optometry profession in 2018, and the report was released in 2019.

The Board enters an annual contract with OPES to perform these services. In FY 2024-25 the Board was contracted to spend \$37,968 on CLRE examination development. In FY 2025-26 the Board is contracted to spend \$129,196 to perform the optometrist occupational analysis (\$79,524) and CLRE examination

development (\$49,672). OPES will present the occupational analysis to the Board when the report is complete, which is expected to occur in June 2026.

E.O. Pruden provided an update on the continuing education requirements for retired volunteer designated optometrists. The May 2, 2025 Practice and Education Committee discussed the continuing education requirements applicable to optometrists holding the Retired Volunteer designation.

Optometrists holding the Retired Volunteer designation can practice optometry but can only provide voluntary, unpaid optometric services at health fairs, vision screenings, and public service eye programs. There are presently 36 optometrists with the Retired Volunteer designation. As a condition of renewal, the law requires the Retired Volunteer designated optometrist to complete the CE requirements as designated by BPC 3059.

CE requirements: 50/35/10 hours if glaucoma certified. 50/35 hours if TPA certified. 40 hours if DPA.

The Practice and Education Committee asked staff to research whether other states have a retired volunteer designation and, if they do, how they treat continuing education hours for that status. Staff reached out to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry who queried member boards of optometry.

Seventeen (17) states responded and five (5) have a retired or retired volunteer license status that enables practice. Those states are:

- Arkansas – Requires CE
- Colorado – Requires CE
- Texas – Requires CE
- Utah – Does not Require CE
- West Virginia – Requires CE

In Arkansas, Colorado, and West Virginia the CE requirements are the same regardless of retired volunteer designation or active designation. In Texas, retired volunteer optometrists must complete half the hours required of a licensed optometrist. Utah was the only state in the sample that does not require CE for retired volunteer designated optometrists.

E.O. Pruden reported that he was fortunate to be able to attend the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Annual Meeting. Over the last year, he has been participating in a telehealth task force that was created by ARBO made up of representatives from different states around the Country. For a year the taskforce has been researching telehealth, looking at how other states handle telehealth and trying to develop some best practices. The taskforce delivered their report at this annual meeting.

E.O. Pruden provided a staffing update. In June, the Board filled the vacancy left

by Randy Love's retirement and is excited to announce and congratulate Erica Bautista on her promotion. Erica brings a wealth of experience to the Administration and Licensing Manager position, having served the Board for nearly three years as its Administrative Analyst, with more than twenty-five years of state government experience across a variety of programmatic functions.

The Board also welcomes Ravin Chand to the Enforcement Unit, filling the vacancy created when Enforcement Analyst Scott Kerswell promoted to the Associate Governmental Program Analyst position.

Effective July 1, 2025, the Board reduced 1.4 positions pursuant to Budget Letter 24-20 (CS 4.12 Vacancy Elimination). The positions given up were vacant and no current staff was affected. The Board may realize minor savings in future fiscal years because of these positions being eliminated.

Enforcement Manager, Brad Garding reported on the Enforcement Program. He provided background information on Ravin Chand (new Enforcement Analyst). New enforcement staff are being trained on how the Board conducts investigations and are familiarizing themselves with the laws and regulations the Board enforces. While training is ongoing, this quarter's enforcement report shows that our closure rate and cycle time dipped slightly, closing around 10% less cases than in previous quarters.

CE audits also slowed down a bit as a second analyst is being trained on conducting audits. For fiscal year numbers, one number that stood out was the average days to close citation cases. That number dropped by 85% from the last fiscal year, from 219 days to 33 days. This is largely due to the increased volume of citations issued for CE audit failures, and their shorter cycle time. CE audit complaint cases are only opened when a licensee fails a CE audit, and a citation is usually issued within a week.

Overall, staff expects numbers to improve over the next fiscal year, as caseload will be able to more uniformly be spread across analysts. This should allow more focus on individual cases. In addition, with the increase in staff, we will be maintaining our focus on unlicensed practice, and other licensing compliance issues.

E.O. Pruden reported the examination and licensing programs. In the April and May 2025 releases, the primary focus was the consolidation of Licensing and Registration applications for the optician program. Previously a two-step process, applications for Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Businesses (RDO), Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Spectacle Lens Dispensers (SLD), and Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Contact Lens Dispensers (CLD) have now been combined into a single application. This streamlined approach, implemented through the development of the new "1030" application, has significantly reduced confusion

and created a more efficient and user-friendly process for applicants.

Additionally, the Home Residence Permit application was added to the BreEZe interface. This update enables current licensees to add the Home Residence Permit to their profiles and has also been incorporated into the initial license application for new optometry graduates. These changes enhance access to care and provide flexibility for both new and existing licensees.

As with all BreEZe releases, outdated content was removed, and various system improvements were made to reflect current laws and regulations. Notable updates included revised language on name change applications for both optometrists and opticians, and implementation of the CURES fee increase effective April 1, 2025. These updates reflect the Board's ongoing commitment to improving the licensing process and ensuring regulatory alignment within BreEZe.

Presently, all applicants and licensees that conduct transactions online through BreEZe do not pay credit-card service fees to conduct that business. Beginning in August, for all transactions with a fee completed online via BreEZe, the applicant and licensee will be charged a 2.3% credit card service fee. This fee was previously paid by the Board for all online transactions.

The statistical review was provided to Members in their materials. During this past fiscal year, the Board received more applications for initial licensure and issued more licenses than in the prior fiscal year. Just as with the initial licenses, renewal had been declining year-after-year for a ten-year period. In this past fiscal year, just like with the initial licenses, renewals have increased as well. This is encouraging and staff will keep a close eye on it.

The California Laws and Regulations Exam (CLRE) is back to a 90% pass rate which is also encouraging.

Regarding the regulatory update, E.O. Pruden noted that there is only one of the five regulations on this report to provide an update on which is the radiofrequency technology and devices regulation. Agency has now approved the regulation, and staff will be finalizing it in the next week, sending the final regulation to the Office of Administrative Law for their consideration.

Public comment was heard from Ruby Garcia who sought clarification about the new dispensing optician application process, which is now one application and one fee.

11. Future Agenda Items

Audio of Discussion: [2:55:05](#)

There were no requests for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.