
2450 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 575-7170, (916) 575-7292 Fax
www.optometry.ca.gov

To: Board Members **Date:** January 27, 2017

From: Joanne Stacy **Telephone:** (916) 575-7182
Policy Analyst

Subject: **Agenda Item 13 – Update on 2016 Legislation Impacting Healing Arts Boards and the Practice of Optometry**

The following bills, as currently written, impact the Board's functions and the practice of optometry. The 2015-2016 legislative session has ended; none of the bills carried over into the new session. To view the bill, status and corresponding analysis, please click on the applicable hyperlinks below.

A. Senate Bill 482 (Lara) Controlled Substances: CURES Database

Summary: This bill requires prescribers to consult the Controlled Substances Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) prior to prescribing a Schedule II or III drug to a patient for the first time and delays implementation of this requirement until the Department of Justice (DOJ) certifies that the CURES database is ready for statewide use.

Status: Passed by Senate & Assembly, Signed by the Governor on 9/27

Recent Board Analysis: [08/05/16 – Assembly Floor Analyses](#)

Board Impact: Licensees are already required to register on the CURES system. By adding the requirement to use the system, enforcement may see a slight increase for non-compliance. Additionally, the language of the bill requires that health care practitioner who fails to consult the CURES database is required to be referred to the appropriate state professional licensing board solely for administrative sanctions, as deemed appropriate by that board ([Health and Safety Code 11165.4\(d\)\(1\)](#)). Regulatory update in regards to the new statute is addressed in Agenda Item 16.

B. Senate Bill 622 (Hernandez): Optometry

Summary: This bill would make various expansions in the scope of practice for optometrists and authorize certification in specified laser procedures, minor surgical procedures, and vaccinations.

Status: Pulled by author while in Assembly Business and Professions

Recent Bill Analysis: [07/13/15- Assembly Business and Professions](#)

Potential Board Impact: While this bill increases the scope of optometrists, the way the bill is currently written, the impact to the Board is expected to be minor. BreZE configuration changes would need to be done and minor regulations would need to be drafted to fully implement the bill.

Update: The California Optometric Association (COA) indicated in its newsletter that it is “planning on reintroducing legislation to expand the optometric scope of practice in California.”

The newsletter further stated the following: “The bill is needed because the current practice act is very prescriptive and its limitations are becoming a problem for doctors and their patients. For example, the act limits the medications that doctors of optometry can use. If a new medication is developed, optometrists are forced to go back to the Legislature to add the new authority. The scope of practice should be allowed to grow as innovation changes the way eye care is provided. The bill language with the exact details of what is included will be available by February 17. The first committee hearing will be before April 28.”