

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1503

Introduced by Committee on Business and Professions

February 24, 2025

An act to amend Sections 4016.5, 4052.6, 4210, 4211, 4233, and 4400 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1503, as introduced, Committee on Business and Professions. Pharmacy: sunset review: advanced pharmacist practitioner.

Existing law, the Pharmacy Law, requires the California State Board of Pharmacy within the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate the practice of pharmacy, including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacies. Existing law authorizes the board, with the approval of the Director of Consumer Affairs, to appoint an executive officer to exercise certain powers and to perform certain duties delegated by the board, as specified. Existing law repeals the provisions establishing the board and authorizing the appointment of an executive officer on January 1, 2026, rendering the board subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to evaluate the board through the joint legislative sunset review oversight process and to subsequently effectuate any recommendations produced through that process.

Existing law authorizes a licensed pharmacist to perform additional functions if the licensee is recognized by the board as “an advanced practice pharmacist” by meeting certain requirements. Those additional functions include, among others, performing patient assessments, ordering and interpreting drug therapy-related tests, and initiating,

adjusting, or discontinuing drug therapy, as specified. The requirements for recognition as an advanced practice pharmacist include having completed a combination of specified certifications, postgraduate residencies, or experience under a collaborative practice agreement or protocol with a physician. Existing law also requires an advanced practice pharmacist to complete 10 hours of continuing education in addition to the continuing education otherwise required at the time of a second or subsequent license renewal.

This bill would revise those and other related provisions to refer to those licensees as “advanced pharmacist practitioners,” instead of as “advanced practice pharmacists.”

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to evaluate the
2 California State Board of Pharmacy through the joint legislative
3 sunset review oversight process and to subsequently effectuate
4 any recommendations produced through that process.

5 SEC. 2. Section 4016.5 of the Business and Professions Code
6 is amended to read:

7 4016.5. “Advanced—~~practice pharmacist~~” *pharmacist*
8 *practitioner*” means a licensed pharmacist who has been
9 recognized as an advanced—~~practice pharmacist~~ *practitioner* by the
10 board, pursuant to Section 4210. A board-recognized advanced
11 ~~practice pharmacist~~ *practitioner* is entitled to practice advanced
12 practice pharmacy, as described in Section 4052.6, within or
13 outside of a licensed pharmacy as authorized by this chapter.

14 SEC. 3. Section 4052.6 of the Business and Professions Code
15 is amended to read:

16 4052.6. (a) A pharmacist recognized by the board as an
17 advanced—~~practice pharmacist~~ *practitioner* may do all of the
18 following:

- 19 (1) Perform patient assessments.
20 (2) Order and interpret drug therapy-related tests.
21 (3) Refer patients to other health care providers.
22 (4) Participate in the evaluation and management of diseases
23 and health conditions in collaboration with other health care
24 providers.

1 (5) Initiate, adjust, or discontinue drug therapy.

2 (b) A pharmacist who adjusts or discontinues drug therapy shall
3 promptly transmit written notification to the patient's diagnosing
4 prescriber or enter the appropriate information in a patient record
5 system shared with the prescriber, as permitted by that prescriber.
6 A pharmacist who initiates drug therapy shall promptly transmit
7 written notification to, or enter the appropriate information into,
8 a patient record system shared with the patient's primary care
9 provider or diagnosing provider, as permitted by that provider.

10 (c) This section shall not interfere with a physician's order to
11 dispense a prescription drug as written, or other order of similar
12 meaning.

13 (d) Prior to initiating or adjusting a controlled substance therapy
14 pursuant to this section, a pharmacist shall personally register with
15 the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

16 (e) A pharmacist who orders and interprets tests pursuant to
17 paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) shall ensure that the ordering of
18 those tests is done in coordination with the patient's primary care
19 provider or diagnosing prescriber, as appropriate, including
20 promptly transmitting written notification to the patient's
21 diagnosing prescriber or entering the appropriate information in a
22 patient record system shared with the prescriber, when available
23 and as permitted by that prescriber.

24 SEC. 4. Section 4210 of the Business and Professions Code is
25 amended to read:

26 4210. (a) A person who seeks recognition as an advanced
27 ~~practice~~ pharmacist *practitioner* shall meet all of the following
28 requirements:

29 (1) Hold an active license to practice pharmacy issued pursuant
30 to this chapter that is in good standing.

31 (2) (A) Satisfy any two of the following criteria:

32 (i) Earn certification in a relevant area of practice, including,
33 but not limited to, ambulatory care, critical care, geriatric
34 pharmacy, nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support pharmacy, oncology
35 pharmacy, pediatric pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, or psychiatric
36 pharmacy, from an organization recognized by the Accreditation
37 Council for Pharmacy Education or another entity recognized by
38 the board.

39 (ii) Complete a postgraduate residency through an accredited
40 postgraduate institution where at least 50 percent of the experience

1 includes the provision of direct patient care services with
2 interdisciplinary teams.

3 (iii) Have provided clinical services to patients for at least one
4 year under a collaborative practice agreement or protocol with a
5 physician, advanced ~~practice pharmacist~~, *pharmacist practitioner*,
6 pharmacist practicing collaborative drug therapy management, or
7 health system.

8 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, if, as a condition of
9 completion of one of the required criteria fulfillment of a second
10 criterion is also required, that completion shall be deemed to satisfy
11 this paragraph.

12 (3) File an application with the board for recognition as an
13 advanced ~~practice pharmacist~~, *pharmacist practitioner*.

14 (4) Pay the applicable fee to the board.

15 (b) An advanced ~~practice pharmacist~~ *practitioner* recognition
16 issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for two years,
17 coterminous with the certificate holder's license to practice
18 pharmacy.

19 (c) The board shall adopt regulations establishing the means of
20 documenting completion of the requirements in this section.

21 (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025.

22 SEC. 5. Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code is
23 amended to read:

24 4211. (a) An applicant for renewal of an advanced ~~practice~~
25 pharmacist *practitioner* recognition shall maintain a current and
26 active pharmacist license, and shall submit all of the following as
27 part of the renewal:

28 (1) Application and payment of the renewal fees.

29 (2) (A) Proof satisfactory to the board that the licensee has
30 completed 10 hours of continuing education pursuant to Section
31 4233.

32 (B) The 10 hours shall be in addition to the continuing education
33 requirements necessary for a pharmacist license renewal pursuant
34 to Section 4231.

35 (C) An advanced ~~practice pharmacist~~ *practitioner* shall retain
36 documentation of completion of continuing education for four
37 years.

38 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the board shall not require
39 completion of continuing education for the first renewal cycle of
40 an advanced ~~practice pharmacist~~ *practitioner* recognition.

1 (c) The board may issue an inactive advanced—~~practice~~
2 pharmacist *practitioner* recognition under any of the following
3 conditions:

4 (1) The pharmacist's license becomes inactive.

5 (2) The advanced—~~practice~~ pharmacist *practitioner* fails to
6 provide documentation of the completion of the required continuing
7 education.

8 (3) As part of an investigation or audit conducted by the board,
9 the advanced—~~practice~~ pharmacist *practitioner* fails to provide
10 documentation substantiating the completion of continuing
11 education.

12 (d) The board shall reactivate an inactive advanced—~~practice~~
13 pharmacist *practitioner* recognition only if the advanced—~~practice~~
14 pharmacist *practitioner* pays the required renewal fees pursuant
15 to Section 4210, submits satisfactory proof to the board of
16 completion of the continuing education requirements under Section
17 4233, and meets all renewal requirements in this section.

18 SEC. 6. Section 4233 of the Business and Professions Code is
19 amended to read:

20 4233. A pharmacist who is recognized as an advanced—~~practice~~
21 pharmacist *practitioner* shall complete 10 hours of continuing
22 education each renewal cycle in addition to the requirements of
23 Section 4231. The subject matter shall be in one or more areas of
24 practice relevant to the pharmacist's clinical practice.

25 SEC. 7. Section 4400 of the Business and Professions Code is
26 amended to read:

27 4400. The amount of fees and penalties prescribed by this
28 chapter, except as otherwise provided, is that fixed by the board
29 according to the following schedule:

30 (a) (1) The fee for a pharmacy license shall be seven hundred
31 fifty dollars (\$750) and may be increased to two thousand dollars
32 (\$2,000). The fee for the issuance of a temporary pharmacy permit
33 shall be one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600) and may be
34 increased to two thousand seven hundred forty dollars (\$2,740).

35 (2) The fee for a nonresident pharmacy license shall be two
36 thousand four hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$2,427) and may be
37 increased to three thousand four hundred twenty-four dollars
38 (\$3,424). The fee for the issuance of a temporary nonresident
39 pharmacy permit shall be two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and may

1 be increased to two thousand four hundred sixty-nine dollars
2 (\$2,469).

3 (b) (1) The fee for a pharmacy license annual renewal shall be
4 one thousand twenty-five dollars (\$1,025) and may be increased
5 to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

6 (2) The fee for a nonresident pharmacy license annual renewal
7 shall be one thousand twenty-five dollars (\$1,025) and may be
8 increased to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

9 (c) The fee for the pharmacist application and examination shall
10 be two hundred sixty dollars (\$260) and may be increased to two
11 hundred eighty-five dollars (\$285).

12 (d) The fee for regrading an examination shall be one hundred
13 fifteen dollars (\$115) and may be increased to two hundred dollars
14 (\$200). If an error in grading is found and the applicant passes the
15 examination, the regrading fee shall be refunded.

16 (e) The fee for a pharmacist license shall be one hundred
17 ninety-five dollars (\$195) and may be increased to two hundred
18 fifteen dollars (\$215). The fee for a pharmacist biennial renewal
19 shall be four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) and may be reduced to
20 three hundred sixty dollars (\$360).

21 (f) The fee for a wholesaler or third-party logistics provider
22 license and annual renewal shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
23 and may be increased to one thousand four hundred eleven dollars
24 (\$1,411). A temporary license fee shall be seven hundred fifteen
25 dollars (\$715) and may be increased to one thousand nine dollars
26 (\$1,009).

27 (g) The fee for a hypodermic license shall be five hundred fifty
28 dollars (\$550) and may be increased to seven hundred seventy-five
29 dollars (\$775). The fee for a hypodermic license renewal shall be
30 four hundred dollars (\$400) and may be increased to five hundred
31 sixty-one dollars (\$561).

32 (h) (1) The fee for application, investigation, and issuance of
33 a license as a designated representative pursuant to Section 4053,
34 as a designated representative-3PL pursuant to Section 4053.1, or
35 as a designated representative-reverse distributor pursuant to
36 Section 4053.2 shall be three hundred forty-five dollars (\$345)
37 and may be increased to four hundred eighty-five dollars (\$485).

38 (2) The fee for the annual renewal of a license as a designated
39 representative, designated representative-3PL, or designated
40 representative-reverse distributor shall be three hundred

1 eighty-eight dollars (\$388) and may be increased to five hundred
2 forty-seven dollars (\$547).

3 (i) (1) The fee for the application, investigation, and issuance
4 of a license as a designated representative for a veterinary
5 food-animal drug retailer pursuant to Section 4053 shall be three
6 hundred forty-five dollars (\$345) and may be increased to four
7 hundred eighty-five dollars (\$485).

8 (2) The fee for the annual renewal of a license as a designated
9 representative for a veterinary food-animal drug retailer shall be
10 three hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$388) and may be increased
11 to five hundred forty-seven dollars (\$547).

12 (j) (1) The application fee for a nonresident wholesaler or
13 third-party logistics provider license issued pursuant to Section
14 4161 shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and may be increased
15 to one thousand four hundred eleven dollars (\$1,411).

16 (2) A temporary license fee shall be seven hundred fifteen
17 dollars (\$715) and may be increased to one thousand nine dollars
18 (\$1,009).

19 (3) The annual renewal fee for a nonresident wholesaler license
20 or third-party logistics provider license issued pursuant to Section
21 4161 shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and may be increased
22 to one thousand four hundred eleven dollars (\$1,411).

23 (k) The fee for evaluation of continuing education courses for
24 accreditation shall be set by the board at an amount not to exceed
25 forty dollars (\$40) per course hour.

26 (l) The fee for an intern pharmacist license shall be one hundred
27 seventy-five dollars (\$175) and may be increased to two hundred
28 forty-five dollars (\$245). The fee for transfer of intern hours or
29 verification of licensure to another state shall be one hundred
30 twenty dollars (\$120) and may be increased to one hundred
31 sixty-eight dollars (\$168).

32 (m) The board may waive or refund the additional fee for the
33 issuance of a license where the license is issued less than 45 days
34 before the next regular renewal date.

35 (n) The fee for the reissuance of any license, or renewal thereof,
36 that has been lost or destroyed or reissued due to a name change
37 shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75) and may be increased to one
38 hundred dollars (\$100).

39 (o) (1) The fee for processing an application to change
40 information on a premises license record shall be three hundred

1 ninety-five dollars (\$395) and may be increased to five hundred
2 fifty-seven dollars (\$557).

3 (2) The fee for processing an application to change a name or
4 correct an address on a premises license record shall be two
5 hundred six dollars (\$206) and may be increased to two hundred
6 eighty-two dollars (\$282).

7 (3) The fee for processing an application to change a
8 pharmacist-in-charge, designated representative-in-charge, or
9 responsible manager on a premises license record shall be two
10 hundred fifty dollars (\$250) and may be increased to three hundred
11 fifty-three dollars (\$353).

12 (p) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in setting fees pursuant
13 to this section, the board shall seek to maintain a reserve in the
14 Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund equal to approximately one
15 year's operating expenditures.

16 (q) The fee for any applicant for a clinic license shall be six
17 hundred twenty dollars (\$620) and may be increased to eight
18 hundred seventy-three dollars (\$873). The annual fee for renewal
19 of the license shall be four hundred dollars (\$400) and may be
20 increased to five hundred sixty-one dollars (\$561).

21 (r) The fee for the issuance of a pharmacy technician license
22 shall be one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) and may be increased
23 to one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$165). The fee for renewal of a
24 pharmacy technician license shall be one hundred eighty dollars
25 (\$180) and may be reduced to one hundred twenty-five dollars
26 (\$125).

27 (s) The fee for a veterinary food-animal drug retailer license
28 shall be six hundred ten dollars (\$610) and may be increased to
29 eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825). The annual renewal fee
30 for a veterinary food-animal drug retailer license shall be four
31 hundred sixty dollars (\$460) and may be increased to five hundred
32 sixty-one dollars (\$561). The fee for the temporary license shall
33 be five hundred twenty dollars (\$520) and may be increased to
34 seven hundred thirty-two dollars (\$732).

35 (t) The fee for issuance of a retired license pursuant to Section
36 4200.5 shall be fifty dollars (\$50) and may be increased to one
37 hundred dollars (\$100).

38 (u) The fee for issuance of a sterile compounding pharmacy
39 license or a hospital satellite compounding pharmacy shall be three
40 thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$3,875) and may be

1 increased to five thousand four hundred sixty-six dollars (\$5,466).
2 The fee for a temporary license shall be one thousand sixty-five
3 dollars (\$1,065) and may be increased to one thousand five hundred
4 three dollars (\$1,503). The annual renewal fee of the license shall
5 be four thousand eighty-five dollars (\$4,085) and may be increased
6 to five thousand seven hundred sixty-two dollars (\$5,762).

7 (v) The fee for the issuance of a nonresident sterile compounding
8 pharmacy license shall be eight thousand five hundred dollars
9 (\$8,500) and may be increased to sixteen thousand five hundred
10 two dollars (\$16,502). The annual renewal of the license shall be
11 eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500) and may be increased
12 to seventeen thousand forty dollars (\$17,040). In addition to paying
13 that application fee, the nonresident sterile compounding pharmacy
14 shall deposit, when submitting the application, a reasonable
15 amount, as determined by the board, necessary to cover the board's
16 estimated cost of performing the inspection required by Section
17 4127.2. If the required deposit is not submitted with the application,
18 the application shall be deemed to be incomplete. If the actual cost
19 of the inspection exceeds the amount deposited, the board shall
20 provide to the applicant a written invoice for the remaining amount
21 and shall not take action on the application until the full amount
22 has been paid to the board. If the amount deposited exceeds the
23 amount of actual and necessary costs incurred, the board shall
24 remit the difference to the applicant. The fee for a temporary
25 license shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) and
26 may be increased to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

27 (w) The fee for the issuance of an outsourcing facility license
28 shall be twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and may be
29 increased to thirty-five thousand two hundred fifty-six dollars
30 (\$35,256). The fee for the renewal of an outsourcing facility license
31 shall be twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and may be
32 increased to forty-one thousand three hundred sixty-six dollars
33 (\$41,366). The fee for a temporary outsourcing facility license
34 shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000) and may be increased to
35 five thousand six hundred forty-two dollars (\$5,642).

36 (x) The fee for the issuance of a nonresident outsourcing facility
37 license shall be twenty-eight thousand five hundred dollars
38 (\$28,500) and may be increased to forty-two thousand three
39 hundred eighteen dollars (\$42,318). The fee for the renewal of a
40 nonresident outsourcing facility license shall be twenty-eight

1 thousand five hundred dollars (\$28,500) and may be increased to
2 forty-six thousand three hundred fifty-three dollars (\$46,353). In
3 addition to paying that application fee, the nonresident outsourcing
4 facility shall deposit, when submitting the application, a reasonable
5 amount, as determined by the board, necessary to cover the board's
6 estimated cost of performing the inspection required by Section
7 4129.2. If the required deposit is not submitted with the application,
8 the application shall be deemed to be incomplete. If the actual cost
9 of the inspection exceeds the amount deposited, the board shall
10 provide to the applicant a written invoice for the remaining amount
11 and shall not take action on the application until the full amount
12 has been paid to the board. If the amount deposited exceeds the
13 amount of actual and necessary costs incurred, the board shall
14 remit the difference to the applicant. The fee for a temporary
15 nonresident outsourcing license shall be four thousand dollars
16 (\$4,000) and may be increased to five thousand six hundred
17 forty-two dollars (\$5,642).

18 (y) The fee for the issuance of a centralized hospital packaging
19 license shall be three thousand eight hundred fifteen dollars
20 (\$3,815) and may be increased to five thousand three hundred
21 eighteen dollars (\$5,318). The annual renewal of the license shall
22 be two thousand nine hundred twelve dollars (\$2,912) and may be
23 increased to four thousand one hundred seven dollars (\$4,107).

24 (z) (1) The fee for the issuance of a license to a correctional
25 clinic pursuant to Article 13.5 (commencing with Section 4187)
26 shall be six hundred twenty dollars (\$620) and may be increased
27 to eight hundred seventy-three dollars (\$873). The annual renewal
28 fee for that correctional clinic license shall be four hundred dollars
29 (\$400) and may be increased to five hundred sixty-one dollars
30 (\$561).

31 (2) The fee for the issuance of an ADDS license to a correctional
32 clinic pursuant to Article 13.5 (commencing with Section 4187)
33 shall be five hundred dollars (\$500) and may be increased to seven
34 hundred five dollars (\$705). The annual renewal fee for the
35 correctional clinic ADDS shall be four hundred dollars (\$400) and
36 may be increased to five hundred sixty-one dollars (\$561).

37 (aa) The fee for an ADDS license shall be five hundred
38 twenty-five dollars (\$525) and may be increased to seven hundred
39 forty-one dollars (\$741). The fee for the annual renewal of the

1 license shall be four hundred fifty-three dollars (\$453) and may
2 be increased to six hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$639).

3 (ab) The application and initial license fee for a remote
4 dispensing site pharmacy application shall be one thousand seven
5 hundred thirty dollars (\$1,730) and may be increased to two
6 thousand four hundred forty dollars (\$2,440). The fee for the annual
7 renewal shall be one thousand twenty-five dollars (\$1,025) and
8 may be increased to two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The fee for a
9 temporary license shall be eight hundred ninety dollars (\$890) and
10 may be increased to one thousand one hundred ninety-nine dollars
11 (\$1,199).

12 (ac) The application and initial license fee to operate EMSADDS
13 shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) and may be increased to
14 three hundred eighty dollars (\$380) per machine. The fee for the
15 annual renewal shall be two hundred dollars (\$200) and may be
16 increased to two hundred seventy-three dollars (\$273). The license
17 fee may not be transferred to a different location if the EMSADDS
18 is moved. The application and renewal fee for a licensed wholesaler
19 that is also an emergency medical services provider agency shall
20 be eight hundred ten dollars (\$810) and may be increased to one
21 thousand one hundred forty-three dollars (\$1,143).

22 (ad) The fee for application and issuance of an initial license as
23 a designated paramedic shall be three hundred fifty dollars (\$350)
24 and may be increased to four hundred ninety-four dollars (\$494).
25 The fee of biennial renewal shall be two hundred dollars (\$200)
26 and may be increased to two hundred ninety-two dollars (\$292).

27 (ae) The fee for an application for an advanced-~~practice~~
28 pharmacist *practitioner* license and renewal of advanced-~~practice~~
29 pharmacist *practitioner* license shall be three hundred dollars
30 (\$300) and may be increased to four hundred eighteen dollars
31 (\$418).

32 (af) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025.