

Date of Hearing: January 9, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

Evan Low, Chair

AB 1013 (Low) – As Amended January 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Chiropractors.

SUMMARY: Reduces the annual renewal fee for a chiropractor license to its original \$250 cost on January 1, 2019, authorizes the Board of Chiropractic Examiners (BCE) to lower the fee as necessary, and makes other technical, non-substantive changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the BCE to license and regulate the practice of chiropractic. (The Chiropractic Initiative Act of California, an uncodified initiative act approved by electors November 7, 1922 (Chiropractic Initiative Act))
- 2) Sets, until January 1, 2019, the annual renewal fee for a chiropractor license to \$300. (Chiropractic Initiative Act § 12)
- 3) Requires the BCE to submit a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2018, that contains, at a minimum, the status of the BCE's fee audit and an update on the BCE's plans for restructuring its license fees. (Business and Professions Code § 1006)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill is keyed fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose. This bill is sponsored by the author. This bill builds off of Senate Bill 547 (Hill), Chapter 429, Statutes of 2017, which temporarily increased the renewal fee for a chiropractor license from \$250 to \$300. Since then, the BCE performed a fee audit and is required to report to the Legislature by July 1, 2018. However, discussions between the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, and the BCE are still needed to determine the method, amount, and statutory location for the increases. Also, clean-up is needed in the event a new structure is not adopted.

Background. The fee increase in SB 547 was requested by the BCE midway through 2017 during the sunset review process. Based on updated budget projections at the time from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), the BCE discovered that its fund would likely be negative by Fiscal Year 2018-19. However, because the BCE was looking to restructure its fees entirely and potentially reduce or maintain its current renewal fee, SB 547 only extended the renewal until January 1, 2019, and required the BCE to report back on its progress before the increase repeals. Until a new fee structure is determined, this bill returns the fee to \$250 and contains the clean-up language for the temporary fee increase. Further, to allow the BCE to lower the renewal fee in the event it does restructure its fees, this bill authorizes the BCE to lower the fee as necessary, rather than limit the fee to \$250.

Prior Related Legislation. SB 547 (Hill), Chapter 429, Statutes of 2017, among other technical changes requested by various DCA entities, extended the operation of the California Council for Interior design until January 1, 2022, and raised the fees for several DCA entities projecting budget deficits, including the BCE.

REGISTERED SUPPORT:

None on file.

REGISTERED OPPOSITION:

None on file.

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