

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES BILL ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 2270

VERSION: AMENDED APRIL 10, 2024

AUTHOR: MAIENSCHIN

SPONSOR: AUTHOR

POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NONE

SUBJECT: HEALING ARTS: CONTINUING EDUCATION: MENOPAUSAL MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HEALTH

Summary:

This bill would require the Board to consider including a course in menopausal mental or physical health in its continuing education (CE) requirements.

Existing Law:

- 1) Requires the director of the Department of Consumer Affairs to establish, by regulation, guidelines to prescribe components for mandatory continuing education programs administered by any board within the department. The guidelines shall be developed to ensure that mandatory continuing education is used as a means to create a more competent licensing population, thereby enhancing public protection. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §166)
- 2) Requires licensees of the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board), upon renewal of their license, to certify to the Board that they have completed at least 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to their field of practice in the past 2 years. (BPC §§4980.54(c), 4989.34(a), 4996.22(a), 4999.76(a)).
- 3) Requires that 6 hours of the required 36 hours of continuing education taken in a renewal period be in the subject of law and ethics. (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 16, §1887.3(c))
- 4) Specifies that continuing education training, education, and coursework must be from approved providers and must incorporate one or more of the following (BPC §§4980.54(h), 4989.34(c), 4996.22(f), 4999.76(f)) :
 - a) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding or practice of the profession for which licensed;
 - b) Aspects of the discipline for which licensed where significant recent developments have occurred; and

- c) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding or practice of the profession for which licensed.
- 5) Specifies that the required continuing education be obtained from either an accredited or approved school, or from a source specified by the Board as acceptable in regulations. (BPC §§ 4980.54(f), 4989.34(b), 4996.22(d), 4999.76(d))
- 6) Specifies in regulations that in addition to an accredited or approved school, a continuing education provider may be a board-recognized approval agency, a provider approved or registered by a board-recognized approval agency, or a professional association that is recognized by the Board as a continuing education provider. (16 CCR §1887.4.3(a))

This Bill:

- 1) Requires the Board to consider including a course in menopausal mental or physical health as part of its continuing education requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs), educational psychologists (LEPs), clinical social workers (LCSWs), and professional clinical counselors (LPCCs). (BPC §§4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, 4999.76)
- 2) Also provides a similar requirement for the Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, the Board of Psychology, and the Physician Assistant Board. (BPC §§2191, 2811.5, 2914.4, 3524.5))

Comment:

- 1) **Author's Intent.** The author's office states there is a lack of knowledge in the general population, and a lack of training in medical schools, regarding menopause. They believe that coursework in menopause mental and physical health will bring awareness to the issues that those experiencing menopause face.
- 2) **Course Content Already Permitted.** The Board's licensing laws already permit continuing education coursework that is in or relevant to the practice of that profession. The Board would currently accept a course in menopausal mental health toward continuing education requirements.

There is an extremely wide variety of continuing education courses available to the Board's licensees, covering numerous topics in a wide range of specialties, that pertain to the practice of the professions the Board regulates. Aside from requiring a California law and ethics CE course, the Board leaves it to the licensee to determine what course CE topics are most relevant and beneficial to them in their practice. The Board should consider whether requiring certain courses, which already pertain to the practice of the Board's professions and are therefore already permitted, raises the question of whether or not courses covering other topics should also be required.

- 3) **Relevance of Menopausal Physical Health.** This bill specifies the Board must consider including a course in menopausal mental or physical health in its CE requirements. While mental and physical health can be interrelated, it is debatable whether a course that solely covered menopausal physical health, with no inclusion of mental health, would be relevant to the practice of the professions the Board regulates.
- 4) **Policy & Advocacy Committee Recommendation.** At its April 2024 meeting, the Board's Policy and Advocacy Committee decided not to recommend a position to the Board.
- 5) **Staff Recommendation.** Staff recommends that the Board consider taking no position on the bill and directing staff to continue to watch it.
- 6) **Related Legislation.** AB 2581 (Maienschein) requires the Board to consider including a course in maternal mental health in its continuing education requirements.

7) **Support and Opposition**

Support: California Retired Teachers Association

Opposition: None at this time.

8) **History**

04/11/24 Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

04/10/24 Read second time and amended.

04/09/24 From committee: Amend and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 18. Noes 0.) (April 9).

04/02/24 Re-referred to Com. on B. & P.

04/01/24 From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on B. & P. Read second time and amended.

02/26/24 Referred to Com. on B. & P.

02/09/24 From printer. May be heard in committee March 10.

02/08/24 Read first time. To print.

Blank Page

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2024
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2024
california legislature—2023–24 regular session

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2270

Introduced by Assembly Member Maienschein
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bains)

February 8, 2024

An act to ~~add Sections 2191.3, 2811.7, 2914.4, 3524.6, 4980.56, 4989.35, 4996.29, and 4999.77 to amend Sections 2191, 2811.5, 3524.5, 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of, and to add Section 2914.4 to,~~ the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

legislative counsel's digest

AB 2270, as amended, Maienschein. Healing arts: continuing education: menopausal mental or physical health.

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, establishes the Medical Board of California and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of physicians and ~~surgeons.~~ *surgeons, including osteopathic physicians and surgeons.* Existing law, the Nursing Practice Act, establishes the Board of Registered Nursing and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of the practice of nursing. Existing law, the Psychology Licensing Law, establishes the Board of Psychology and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of psychologists. Existing law, the Physician Assistant Practice Act, establishes the Physician Assistant Board and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of physician assistants.

Existing law, the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act, the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act, and the Educational Psychologist Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practices of marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, professional clinical counseling, and education psychology, respectively, by the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Existing law establishes continuing education requirements for all of these various healing arts practitioners.

~~This bill would require licensees under these provisions to have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental or physical health within the scope of their practice to satisfy continuing education and professional development requirements. the above-specified boards, in determining their continuing education requirements, to consider including a course in menopausal mental or physical health.~~

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. Section 2191 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 2191. (a) In determining its continuing education requirements,
4 the board shall consider including a course in human sexuality,
5 defined as the study of a human being as a sexual being and how
6 ~~he or she functions~~ *they function* with respect thereto, and nutrition
7 to be taken by those licensees whose practices may require
8 knowledge in those areas.

9 (b) The board shall consider including a course in child abuse
10 detection and treatment to be taken by those licensees whose
11 practices are of a nature that there is a likelihood of contact with
12 abused or neglected children.

13 (c) The board shall consider including a course in acupuncture
14 to be taken by those licensees whose practices may require
15 knowledge in the area of acupuncture and whose education has
16 not included instruction in acupuncture.

17 (d) The board shall encourage every physician and surgeon to
18 take nutrition as part of ~~his or her~~ *their* continuing education,
19 particularly a physician and surgeon involved in primary care.

1 (e) The board shall consider including a course in elder abuse
2 detection and treatment to be taken by those licensees whose
3 practices are of a nature that there is a likelihood of contact with
4 abused or neglected persons 65 years of age and older.

5 (f) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
6 board shall consider including a course in the early detection and
7 treatment of substance abusing pregnant women to be taken by
8 those licensees whose practices are of a nature that there is a
9 likelihood of contact with these women.

10 (g) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
11 board shall consider including a course in the special care needs
12 of ~~drug-addicted~~ *drug-addicted* infants to be taken by those
13 licensees whose practices are of a nature that there is a likelihood
14 of contact with these infants.

15 (h) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
16 board shall consider including a course providing training and
17 guidelines on how to routinely screen for signs exhibited by abused
18 women, particularly for physicians and surgeons in emergency,
19 surgical, primary care, pediatric, prenatal, and mental health
20 settings. In the event the board establishes a requirement for
21 continuing education coursework in spousal or partner abuse
22 detection or treatment, that requirement shall be met by each
23 licensee within no more than four years from the date the
24 requirement is imposed.

25 (i) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
26 board shall consider including a course in the special care needs
27 of individuals and their families facing end-of-life issues, including,
28 but not limited to, all of the following:

- 29 (1) Pain and symptom management.
- 30 (2) The psycho-social dynamics of death.
- 31 (3) Dying and bereavement.
- 32 (4) Hospice care.

33 (j) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
34 board shall give its highest priority to considering a course on pain
35 management and the risks of addiction associated with the use of
36 Schedule II drugs.

37 (k) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
38 board shall consider including a course in geriatric care for
39 emergency room physicians and surgeons.

1 (l) In determining its continuing education requirements, the
 2 board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or
 3 physical health.

4 SEC. 2. Section 2811.5 of the Business and Professions Code
 5 is amended to read:

6 2811.5. (a) Each person renewing their license under Section
 7 2811 shall submit proof satisfactory to the board that, during the
 8 preceding two-year period, they have been informed of the
 9 developments in the registered nurse field or in any special area
 10 of practice engaged in by the licensee, occurring since the last
 11 renewal thereof, either by pursuing a course or courses of
 12 continuing education in the registered nurse field or relevant to
 13 the practice of the licensee, and approved by the board, or by other
 14 means deemed equivalent by the board.

15 (b) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code,
 16 the board, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
 17 Code, shall do the following:

18 (1) By January 1, 2019, deliver a report to the appropriate
 19 legislative policy committees detailing a comprehensive plan for
 20 approving and disapproving continuing education opportunities.

21 (2) By January 1, 2020, report to the appropriate legislative
 22 committees on its progress implementing this plan.

23 (c) For purposes of this section, the board shall, by regulation,
 24 establish standards for continuing education. The standards shall
 25 be established in a manner to ensure that a variety of alternative
 26 forms of continuing education are available to licensees, including,
 27 but not limited to, online, academic studies, in-service education,
 28 institutes, seminars, lectures, conferences, workshops, extension
 29 studies, and home study programs. The standards shall take
 30 cognizance of specialized areas of practice, and content shall be
 31 relevant to the practice of nursing and shall be related to the
 32 scientific knowledge or technical skills required for the practice
 33 of nursing or be related to direct or indirect patient or client care.
 34 The continuing education standards established by the board shall
 35 not exceed 30 hours of direct participation in a course or courses
 36 approved by the board, or its equivalent in the units of measure
 37 adopted by the board.

38 (d) The board shall audit continuing education providers at least
 39 once every five years to ensure adherence to regulatory

1 requirements, and shall withhold or rescind approval from any
2 provider that is in violation of the regulatory requirements.

3 (e) The board shall encourage continuing education in spousal
4 or partner abuse detection and treatment. In the event the board
5 establishes a requirement for continuing education coursework in
6 spousal or partner abuse detection or treatment, that requirement
7 shall be met by each licensee within no more than four years from
8 the date the requirement is imposed.

9 (f) In establishing standards for continuing education, the board
10 shall consider including a course in the special care needs of
11 individuals and their families, including, but not limited to, all of
12 the following:

- 13 (1) Pain and symptom management, including palliative care.
- 14 (2) The psychosocial dynamics of death.
- 15 (3) Dying and bereavement.
- 16 (4) Hospice care.

17 (g) *In establishing standards for continuing education, the board*
18 *shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or physical*
19 *health.*

20 ~~(g)~~

21 (h) This section shall not apply to licensees during the first two
22 years immediately following their initial licensure in California
23 or any other governmental jurisdiction, except that, beginning
24 January 1, 2023, those licensees shall complete one hour of direct
25 participation in an implicit bias course offered by a continuing
26 education provider approved by the board that meets all the same
27 requirements outlined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section
28 2786, including, but not limited to, the identification of the
29 licensees previous or current unconscious biases and
30 misinformation and corrective measures to decrease implicit bias
31 at the interpersonal and institutional levels, including ongoing
32 policies and practices for that purpose.

33 ~~(h)~~

34 (i) The board may, in accordance with the intent of this section,
35 make exceptions from continuing education requirements for
36 licensees residing in another state or country, or for reasons of
37 health, military service, or other good cause.

38 *SEC. 3. Section 2914.4 is added to the Business and Professions*
39 *Code, to read:*

1 2914.4. *In determining its continuing professional development,*
 2 *the board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental*
 3 *or physical health.*

4 SEC. 4. *Section 3524.5 of the Business and Professions Code*
 5 *is amended to read:*

6 3524.5. (a) The board may require a licensee to complete
 7 continuing education as a condition of license renewal under
 8 Section 3523 or 3524. The board shall not require more than 50
 9 hours of continuing education every two years. The board shall,
 10 as it deems appropriate, accept certification by the National
 11 Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA),
 12 or another qualified certifying body, as determined by the board,
 13 as evidence of compliance with continuing education requirements.

14 (b) (1) The board shall adopt regulations to require that, on and
 15 after January 1, 2022, all continuing education courses for licensees
 16 under this chapter contain curriculum that includes the
 17 understanding of implicit bias.

18 (2) Beginning January 1, 2023, continuing education providers
 19 shall ensure compliance with paragraph (1).

20 (3) Beginning January 1, 2023, the board shall audit continuing
 21 education providers at least once every five years to ensure
 22 adherence to regulatory requirements, and shall withhold or rescind
 23 approval from any provider that is in violation of the regulatory
 24 requirements.

25 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (b), a
 26 continuing education course dedicated solely to research or other
 27 issues that does not include a direct patient care component is not
 28 required to contain curriculum that includes implicit bias in the
 29 practice of physician assistants.

30 (d) In order to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (a),
 31 continuing education courses shall address at least one or a
 32 combination of the following:

33 (1) Examples of how implicit bias affects perceptions and
 34 treatment decisions of physician assistants, leading to disparities
 35 in health outcomes.

36 (2) Strategies to address how unintended biases in
 37 decisionmaking may contribute to health care disparities by shaping
 38 behavior and producing differences in medical treatment along
 39 lines of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age,
 40 socioeconomic status, or other characteristics.

1 (e) *In determining its continuing education requirements, the*
2 *board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or*
3 *physical health.*

4 SEC. 5. *Section 4980.54 of the Business and Professions Code*
5 *is amended to read:*

6 4980.54. (a) The Legislature recognizes that the education and
7 experience requirements in this chapter constitute only minimal
8 requirements to ensure that an applicant is prepared and qualified
9 to take the licensure examinations as specified in subdivision (d)
10 of Section 4980.40 and, if an applicant passes those examinations,
11 to begin practice.

12 (b) In order to continuously improve the competence of licensed
13 and registered marriage and family therapists and as a model for
14 all psychotherapeutic professions, the Legislature encourages all
15 licensees and registrants to regularly engage in continuing
16 education related to the profession or scope of practice as defined
17 in this chapter.

18 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision ~~(e)~~, (f), the board shall
19 not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant
20 certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that the
21 applicant has completed not less than 36 hours of approved
22 continuing education in or relevant to the field of marriage and
23 family therapy in the preceding two years, as determined by the
24 board.

25 (2) The board shall not renew any registration pursuant to this
26 chapter unless the registrant certifies under penalty of perjury to
27 the board, and on a form prescribed by the board, that they have
28 completed not less than three hours of continuing education on the
29 subject of California law and ethics during the preceding year.

30 (d) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any
31 applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education
32 requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of
33 required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two
34 years and shall make these records available to the board for
35 auditing purposes upon request.

36 (e) *In determining its continuing education requirements, the*
37 *board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or*
38 *physical health.*

39 ~~(e)~~

1 (f) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing
2 education requirements of this section for good cause, as defined
3 by the board.

4 ~~(f)~~

5 (g) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the
6 following sources:

7 (1) An accredited school or state-approved school that meets
8 the requirements set forth in Section 4980.36 or 4980.37. Nothing
9 in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring coursework to be
10 offered as part of a regular degree program.

11 (2) Other continuing education providers, as specified by the
12 board by regulation.

13 ~~(g)~~

14 (h) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for
15 identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses,
16 and all providers of continuing education, as described in
17 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision ~~(f)~~, (g), shall adhere to
18 procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or
19 deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education
20 coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this
21 section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

22 ~~(h)~~

23 (i) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers
24 shall incorporate one or more of the following:

25 (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the
26 understanding or the practice of marriage and family therapy.

27 (2) Aspects of the discipline of marriage and family therapy in
28 which significant recent developments have occurred.

29 (3) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding
30 or the practice of marriage and family therapy.

31 ~~(i)~~

32 (j) A system of continuing education for licensed marriage and
33 family therapists shall include courses directly related to the
34 diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being
35 served.

36 ~~(j)~~

37 (k) The continuing education requirements of this section shall
38 comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing
39 education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs
40 pursuant to Section 166.

1 *SEC. 6. Section 4989.34 of the Business and Professions Code*
2 *is amended to read:*

3 4989.34. (a) To renew a license, a licensee shall certify to the
4 board, on a form prescribed by the board, completion in the
5 preceding two years of not less than 36 hours of approved
6 continuing education in, or relevant to, educational psychology.

7 (b) (1) The continuing education shall be obtained from either
8 an accredited university or a continuing education provider as
9 specified by the board by regulation.

10 (2) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure
11 identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses,
12 and all providers of continuing education shall comply with
13 procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or
14 deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education
15 coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this
16 section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

17 (c) *In determining its continuing education requirements, the*
18 *board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or*
19 *physical health.*

20 ~~(e)~~

21 (d) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers
22 shall incorporate one or more of the following:

23 (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the
24 understanding or the practice of educational psychology.

25 (2) Aspects of the discipline of educational psychology in which
26 significant recent developments have occurred.

27 (3) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding
28 or the practice of educational psychology.

29 ~~(e)~~

30 (e) The board may audit the records of a licensee to verify
31 completion of the continuing education requirement. A licensee
32 shall maintain records of the completion of required continuing
33 education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make
34 these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon its
35 request.

36 ~~(e)~~

37 (f) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing
38 education requirements of this section for good cause, as
39 determined by the board.

40 ~~(f)~~

1 (g) The continuing education requirements of this section shall
 2 comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing
 3 education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs
 4 pursuant to Section 166.

5 *SEC. 7. Section 4996.22 of the Business and Professions Code*
 6 *is amended to read:*

7 4996.22. (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision~~(e)~~, (d),
 8 the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless
 9 the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the
 10 board, that the applicant has completed not less than 36 hours of
 11 approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of social
 12 work in the preceding two years, as determined by the board.

13 (2) The board shall not renew any license of an applicant who
 14 began graduate study before January 1, 2004, pursuant to this
 15 chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board that during the
 16 applicant's first renewal period after the operative date of this
 17 section, the applicant completed a continuing education course in
 18 spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention
 19 strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and
 20 same gender abuse dynamics. On and after January 1, 2005, the
 21 course shall consist of not less than seven hours of training.
 22 Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment,
 23 detection, and intervention strategies taken before the operative
 24 date of this section or proof of equivalent teaching or practice
 25 experience may be submitted to the board and at its discretion,
 26 may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement. Continuing
 27 education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be applied
 28 to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required under
 29 paragraph (1).

30 (3) The board shall not renew any registration pursuant to this
 31 chapter unless the registrant certifies under penalty of perjury to
 32 the board, and on a form prescribed by the board, that they have
 33 completed not less than three hours of continuing education in the
 34 subject of California law and ethics during the preceding year.

35 (b) *In determining its continuing education requirements, the*
 36 *board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or*
 37 *physical health.*

38 ~~(b)~~

39 (c) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any
 40 applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education

1 requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of
2 required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two
3 years and shall make these records available to the board for
4 auditing purposes upon request.

5 ~~(e)~~

6 (d) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing
7 education requirement of this section for good cause as defined
8 by the board.

9 ~~(d)~~

10 (e) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the
11 following sources:

12 (1) An accredited school of social work, as defined in Section
13 4991.2, or a school or department of social work that is a candidate
14 for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the
15 Council on Social Work Education. Nothing in this paragraph shall
16 be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part of a
17 regular degree program.

18 (2) A school, college, or university accredited by a regional or
19 national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the
20 United States Department of Education or a school, college, or
21 university that is approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary
22 Education.

23 (3) Another continuing education provider, as specified by the
24 board by regulation.

25 ~~(e)~~

26 (f) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for
27 identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses,
28 and all providers of continuing education, as described in
29 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision ~~(d)~~, (e), shall adhere to the
30 procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or
31 deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education
32 coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this
33 section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

34 ~~(f)~~

35 (g) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers
36 shall incorporate one or more of the following:

37 (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the
38 understanding, or the practice, of social work.

39 (2) Aspects of the social work discipline in which significant
40 recent developments have occurred.

1 (3) Aspects of other related disciplines that enhance the
2 understanding, or the practice, of social work.

3 ~~(g)~~

4 (h) A system of continuing education for licensed clinical social
5 workers shall include courses directly related to the diagnosis,
6 assessment, and treatment of the client population being served.

7 ~~(h)~~

8 (i) The continuing education requirements of this section shall
9 comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing
10 education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs
11 pursuant to Section 166.

12 ~~(i)~~

13 (j) The board may adopt regulations as necessary to implement
14 this section.

15 *SEC. 8. Section 4999.76 of the Business and Professions Code*
16 *is amended to read:*

17 4999.76. (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision ~~(e)~~, (d),
18 the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless
19 the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the
20 board, that the applicant has completed not less than 36 hours of
21 approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of
22 professional clinical counseling in the preceding two years, as
23 determined by the board.

24 (2) The board shall not renew any registration pursuant to this
25 chapter unless the registrant certifies under penalty of perjury to
26 the board, and on a form prescribed by the board, that they have
27 completed not less than three hours of continuing education in the
28 subject of California law and ethics during the preceding year.

29 (b) *In determining its continuing education requirements, the*
30 *board shall consider including a course in menopausal mental or*
31 *physical health.*

32 ~~(b)~~

33 (c) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any
34 applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education
35 requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completed
36 continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and
37 shall make these records available to the board for auditing
38 purposes upon request.

39 ~~(e)~~

1 (d) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing
2 education requirement of this section for good cause, as defined
3 by the board.

4 ~~(d)~~

5 (e) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the
6 following sources:

7 (1) A school, college, or university that is accredited or
8 approved, as defined in Section 4999.12. Nothing in this paragraph
9 shall be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part
10 of a regular degree program.

11 (2) Other continuing education providers as specified by the
12 board by regulation.

13 ~~(e)~~

14 (f) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for
15 identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses,
16 and all providers of continuing education, as described in
17 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision ~~(d)~~, (e), shall adhere to
18 procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or
19 deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education
20 coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this
21 section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

22 ~~(f)~~

23 (g) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers
24 shall incorporate one or more of the following:

25 (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the
26 understanding or the practice of professional clinical counseling.

27 (2) Significant recent developments in the discipline of
28 professional clinical counseling.

29 (3) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding
30 or the practice of professional clinical counseling.

31 ~~(g)~~

32 (h) A system of continuing education for licensed professional
33 clinical counselors shall include courses directly related to the
34 diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being
35 served.

36 ~~(h)~~

37 (i) The continuing education requirements of this section shall
38 fully comply with the guidelines for mandatory continuing
39 education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs
40 pursuant to Section 166.

1 SECTION 1. ~~Section 2191.3 is added to the Business and~~
2 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

3 ~~2191.3. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
4 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
5 ~~or physical health within the scope of their practice to satisfy~~
6 ~~continuing education requirements.~~

7 SEC. 2. ~~Section 2811.7 is added to the Business and Professions~~
8 ~~Code, to read:~~

9 ~~2811.7. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
10 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
11 ~~or physical health within the scope of their practice to satisfy~~
12 ~~continuing education requirements.~~

13 SEC. 3. ~~Section 2914.4 is added to the Business and Professions~~
14 ~~Code, to read:~~

15 ~~2914.4. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
16 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
17 ~~health within the scope of their practice to satisfy continuing~~
18 ~~education requirements.~~

19 SEC. 4. ~~Section 3524.6 is added to the Business and Professions~~
20 ~~Code, to read:~~

21 ~~3524.6. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
22 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
23 ~~or physical health within the scope of their practice to satisfy~~
24 ~~continuing education requirements.~~

25 SEC. 5. ~~Section 4980.56 is added to the Business and~~
26 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

27 ~~4980.56. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
28 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
29 ~~health within the scope of their practice to satisfy continuing~~
30 ~~education requirements.~~

31 SEC. 6. ~~Section 4989.35 is added to the Business and~~
32 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

33 ~~4989.35. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
34 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
35 ~~health within the scope of their practice to satisfy continuing~~
36 ~~education requirements.~~

37 SEC. 7. ~~Section 4996.29 is added to the Business and~~
38 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

39 ~~4996.29. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
40 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~

1 ~~health within the scope of their practice to satisfy continuing~~
2 ~~education requirements.~~
3 ~~SEC. 8. Section 4999.77 is added to the Business and~~
4 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~
5 ~~4999.77. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensee~~
6 ~~shall have the option of taking coursework on menopausal mental~~
7 ~~health within the scope of their practice to satisfy continuing~~
8 ~~education requirements.~~

O