



AB 232 – Temporary Practice Allowance for Out-Of-State Licensees

SUMMARY

AB 232 would grant a 30-day temporary practice allowance to qualifying therapists licensed out-of-state to continue treating existing clients who are visiting California or relocating to California.

BACKGROUND

Current Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board) licensing law requires a therapist to hold a valid and current California license or registration in order to provide therapy to a client who is physically located in California. There are no exceptions. This may cause continuity of care issues for a client who is temporarily visiting California and needs to see their out-of-state licensed therapist via telehealth. This can also create continuity of care issues for a client who is in the process of permanently moving to California and needs to see their current therapist while searching for a therapist who is licensed in California.

THIS BILL

AB 232 will allow an out-of-state licensee with a current, active, and unrestricted license in a profession equivalent to the Board's marriage and family therapist, clinical social work, or professional clinical counselor professions to obtain a temporary practice allowance to see a traveling or relocating client for up to 30 consecutive days in a calendar year. The client is required to be located in California and to have been the licensee's client immediately before the client travels to California.

Prior to providing services, the licensee must provide the Board with specified information about their identity and contact information in addition to informing the client of the limited time frame of the services, their license information and the Board's internet web address.

AB 232 will have a sunset date that aligns with the Board's sunset date, in case any adjustments need to be made after implementation.

SUPPORT

Board of Behavioral Sciences (Sponsor)
Aspiranet
ATA Action
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Medical Association
California State Association of Psychiatrists
California Telehealth Policy Coalition
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
Steinberg Institute

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