

# AB 2165 (Patterson)

## Department of Consumer Affairs: Licensing

### SUMMARY

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The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) establishes minimum qualifications and levels of competency for licensure in more than 100 business and 200 professional categories including: nurses, contractors, cosmetologists, automotive repair facilities, dental hygienists, real estate brokers, insurance agents, and physical therapists.

AB 2165 would add Section 101.8 to the Business and Professions Code to require each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to review completed applications and issue licenses within 45 days from the date of application. The bill also requires that each exam is offered a minimum of 6 times per year.

### PROBLEM

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Professional and vocational applicants are currently experiencing extraordinary delays with application processing times.

In addition, several professions do not allow for testing upon graduation from accredited schools. They first must process the application and then authorize the applicant to test—a process which can take up to 3 months before the applicant is even cleared for examination. Then they are faced with **additional** wait times for taking the exam, waiting for exam results, and waiting for the license to finally be issued upon passage of the examination. It is unacceptable for California's vital professionals and tradesman to be unemployed for up to six months while waiting for the application process to be completed.

This bill aims to ensure that applicants are presumed ready to test upon graduation from accredited schools or approved programs and that they will not be further delayed from employment by an unnecessarily burdensome application processing times.

### EXISTING LAW

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Existing law requires each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to establish eligibility and application requirements—including examination requirements—to license, certify, or register each applicant who successfully satisfies their requirements.

### THE SOLUTION

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AB 2165 does not alter any of the qualifications established by each board under DCA's jurisdiction.

It does require that each board process and issue licenses or certificates within a much more reasonable time period—45 days from the date the complete application was filed, if the individual has met all the requirements of the application and testing within that 45-day period.

### FISCAL EFFECT

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Unknown at this time.

### SPONSOR

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Author

**For more information:**

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