



ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIRK-SILVA, 65<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**AB 918 (QUIRK-SILVA): ACUPUNCTURE LICENSURE**

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**SUMMARY**

This bill would allow a prospective acupuncturist to take the national examination to qualify for national certification and California state licensure enabling acupuncturists to take one exam, save resources and secure enhanced portability of their licensure across the nation for greater employment opportunities.

**BACKGROUND**

Acupuncture is a California essential health benefit. This practice has grown in popularity and is recognized as a part of whole person care.

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) is the only national organization that validates entry-level competency in the practice of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM) through professional certification.

California currently does not recognize out-of-state licensing or accepts for licensure of individuals that have passed the NCCAOM. Therefore, licenses from other states or those who have passed the NCCAOM's examinations may not practice until they have qualified and passed the California examination.

Altogether, 47 states and the District of Columbia represent 98% of the states to require NCCAOM examinations or certifications as a prerequisite for licensure.

Except for California, all states that regulate AOM require the passing of two or more NCCAOM examinations or certification. Meaning, that AOM practitioners who pass the NCCAOM exam or certification, while also meeting state-specific requirements can enjoy reciprocity in all states that regulate acupunctures except for California.

According to the NCCAOM, an estimated 30% to 40% of newly licensed California acupuncturists also take the NCCAOM exams in addition to the California Acupuncture Licensing Exam (CALE) annually.

The benefits of national certification include allowing acupuncturist throughout the country to qualify for providing board-certified services in Medicare and Veterans Administration programs. Additionally, many hospitals, insurance companies, and employers already require NCCAOM as a condition for employment.

**SOLUTION**

This bill would best serve public interest by allowing a prospective acupuncturist to take the NCCAOM exam and if passed, qualify for California state licensure to practice acupuncture. This bill will help save prospective acupuncturists' time, money and resources in the State of California.

This bill would grant national certification allowing acupuncturists to be responsive to the current demand for their vital health care services throughout California and the nation under normal conditions and during the Covid-19 pandemic and future public health crises.

**SUPPORT**

California State Oriental Medicine Association (CSOMA)

**CONTACT**

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