



DATE	December 17 - 18, 2020
TO	Board Members, Acupuncture Board
FROM	Kristine Brothers, Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT	2021 Implementation of the requirement for Wall Licenses

Existing law pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4961, requires licensees, within 30 days of licensure, to register each of the licensee's places of practice or notify the Acupuncture Board (Board) if the licensee does not have a place of practice. Existing law requires an acupuncturist to post a wall license at their place of practice and, if the acupuncturist has more than one place of practice, to obtain and post a duplicate wall license at each place of practice.

Starting January 1, 2021, with the enactment of Assembly Bill 779 (AB 779) (Low, Chapter 308, Statutes of 2019), licensees shall register all places of practice with the Board and obtain a separate wall license for each place of practice with a unique identification number, which will be renewed every two years coinciding with the licensee's license renewal date. It also requires that licensees who do not have a place of practice or are practicing outside of their place of practice to carry a valid pocket license.

Additionally, the new law requires and provides the following:

- Licensees to post an active and valid wall license at each place of practice.
- Licensees to notify the Board if the licensee does not have a place of practice. This would require a licensee to carry a pocket license during treatments outside of a licensee's place of practice, making the pocket license available upon request.
- Require a licensee to renew a wall license biennially.
- Provide that a wall license is nontransferable and any change to a registered location in connection with a wall license requires a new wall license and the former wall license returned to the Board with a request for cancellation.
- Provide that an initial license fee includes one wall license registration if a place of practice is specified in the application.
- Set a separate fee for a wall license, replacement wall license, and wall license renewal. Assembly Bill 3330 (AB 3330) (Calderon, Chapter 359, Statutes of 2020) has set these fees individually at \$50.
- Sets a pocket license replacement fee. AB 3330 has set this fee at \$50.
- Provide that a licensee shall be responsible for the acupuncture, Asian massage services, or any other practice specified under Section 4937 rendered pursuant to the license of the acupuncturist in each place of practice maintained by the acupuncturist.

- Make these provisions operative on January 1, 2021.

Staff's prior analysis of AB 779 indicates the requirements from the new law bring benefits for enforcement providing more transparency with all licensees' practice locations. Requiring renewal of each wall license connected to a place of practice allows for greater accountability and better tracking, which is an increase to public protection.

The Board has a strategic plan item related to seeking inspection authority. Having greater tracking and regulation over licensees' places of practice supports the strategic plan item and furthers accessibility to these practice locations.