

MEMORANDUM

DATE	August 30, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Konnor Leitzell Central Services Student Assistant
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #16(b)(2)(SS) – SB 399 (Portantino) Health Care Coverage: Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism

Background:

This bill, among other things, would no longer permit entities or groups to be qualified autism service providers. The bill would expand the definition of “qualified autism service professional” to include behavioral service providers who meet specified educational, professional, and work experience qualifications. The bill, with regard to the definition of “qualified autism service paraprofessional,” would also authorize the substitution of specified education, work experience, and training qualifications for the requirement to meet the criteria set forth in regulations adopted by the State Department of Social Services.

This bill was amended on April 17. Board staff does not have concerns with the amended language, as the majority of the concerns regarding the reduction in oversight have been amended. Additionally, the amendments made by the author now require providers to pass a background check in order to meet the definitions of a qualified autism service professional or a qualified autism service paraprofessional.

Staff spoke with the author’s office and received word that it is now a two-year bill, and that they will be making amendments next year so it moves through the legislative process.

Location: Senate Committee on Health

Status: 04/26/2017 Hearing canceled at the request of author

Votes: 04/04/2017 Senate Committee on Human Services (3-1-1)

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch SB 399 (Portantino) due to its impact on the oversight of Qualified Autism Service Professionals and Paraprofessionals and will keep the Board abreast of any amendments to the bill in the upcoming year.