



## California Chiropractic Association

Assembly Member Brian Jones – District 71

Assembly Bill 1992 – Pre-Participation Athletic Sports Physicals

Sponsor: California Chiropractic Association

### ISSUE

Doctors of chiropractic are inequitably excluded from providing pre-athletic sports physicals in California.

### SOLUTION

AB 1992 addresses required pre-participation physical examinations within interscholastic athletic programs. Currently, Education Code §49458 authorizes a physician, surgeon or a physician assistant to perform these sports physicals, thereby excluding entire classes of qualified providers

Specifically, AB 1992 will expand this code to include doctors of chiropractic, naturopathic doctors and nurse practitioners as authorized to perform pre-participation physical examinations.

### BACKGROUND

Pre-athletic sports physicals are under the auspices of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and the Community College League. The California Chiropractic Association (CCA) has worked for many years with CIF in an attempt to have the CIF suggested physical form include doctors of chiropractic within the signature/sign-off line.

CIF states that they do not take an official position regarding chiropractors performing these examinations and transfer that authority to the local school district/board. However, because the CIF recommended physical form only lists MD/DO, school liability insurance companies such as Schools Insurance Authority (SIA) has taken the position that doctors of chiropractic are not allowed to perform these physicals. What this situation has created throughout California is that some school districts will allow doctors of chiropractic to perform these physicals and some do not.

In an effort to resolve this issue, the Board of Chiropractic Examiners issued an official statement to SIA defining and stating definitively the doctor of chiropractic scope of practice (November 2014). This statement has not swayed the stance of CIF or made any impact on school liability companies to include doctors of chiropractic in the list of acceptable providers of pre-athletic sports physicals.

**FACT:** The chiropractic scope of practice fully permits pre-athletic physicals. Since 1922, doctors of chiropractic in California have been educated and licensed by the State of California to serve as portal of entry/primary care providers. After undergraduate study, chiropractic students earn a four-year doctorate degree with classroom and laboratory work in basic clinical sciences, physical examination, diagnosis and differential diagnosis, x-ray and interpretation of laboratory blood work and other treatment procedures.

**FACT:** Governor Brown signed AB 722 (Lowenthal, 2013) allowing doctors of chiropractic to perform bus driver commercial drivers' license examinations effective January 1, 2014.

**FACT:** Effective May 2014, federal regulations require all health care providers performing commercial drivers' exams to become certified in the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. Doctors of chiropractic who perform commercial drivers' exams are eligible and are required to be federally certified.

### SUPPORT

California Chiropractic Association (Sponsor)

### PROPOSAL OR BILL STATUS

AB 1992 is authored by Assembly Member Brian Jones. Introduced 2/16/16.



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CHIROPRACTIC  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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