



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 18, 2024
TO	Osteopathic Medical Board of California
FROM	Machiko Chong, Licensing Program Manager Erika Calderon, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 15. Discussion and Possible Action to Discontinue Printed Pocket License

The Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) is proposing to make license verification more effective for its consumers and licensees. OMBC would like to take the necessary steps to eliminate the issuance of pocket licenses upon initial licensure or renewal for the reasons discussed hereafter.

Consumer Protection

Initially, the primary reason for issuing a pocket license was to provide a means to verify the status of a physician and surgeon's license at any given time. At one point in time, this was the only way to verify the status of a license, aside from calling the OMBC. When online verification began in 2005, the OMBC continued to issue pocket licenses as online verification was not as widely accepted as an official record. The pocket license was considered the primary and most reliable source of license verification. However, online services have become a standard, cost-saving, environmentally friendly, and reliable method of doing business.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) License Search is updated in real-time as a license is renewed, or any time the status is changed. An easy access "[License Search](#)" button is available on the home page of the OMBC website. Consumers, employers, or any interested party can verify the license status online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. License status can change at any time during a two-year licensing period. The status can change from Active to Inactive, Inactive to Active, and licensees can be disciplined which could have an immediate effect on their license status. If OMBC staff updates the status of a license in the BrEZe system, it is reflected immediately online, and the pocket license becomes invalid. For these reasons, the online license verification system has become the optimal license verification source for consumer protection.

Environmentally Friendly

The California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), the Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC), and the Physician Assistant Board (PAB) no longer provide pocket licenses citing the following reasons: 1) Facilitating access to accurate license information; 2) operating with environmental awareness by eliminating paper; and 3) significant cost savings in printing, paper, and postage. The elimination of the pocket license would abolish the Board's need to purchase the printing and mailing services of pocket licenses through a third-party. This would significantly reduce the use of plastic, paper, and postage required to create and deliver pocket licenses, which would lessen our impact on the environment.

Cost Savings

In addition to the environmental benefits of eliminating pocket cards, there are significant cost savings for the Board as well. The cost of issuing pocket cards for fiscal year 2022-2023 was an estimated \$22,175.00. The Board would no longer need to contract with a third-party company to create and mail the pocket licenses, which would result in the Board saving these costs each year.

Conclusion

Pocket licenses may not reflect a licensee's current status as it may change within the two-year license period, and they do not display enforcement action taken against a license, if any. The online license verification system is a real-time and accurate depiction of a licensee's physician and surgeon license status. Moreover, eliminating the printing and delivery of pocket licenses will benefit the environment as we find more ways to reduce our environmental footprint. Finally, the Board will benefit by cutting costs associated with the issuance of pocket licenses.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is recommending the Board vote to eliminate the pocket license and adopt paperless licensing for the following reasons:

1. Immediate access to real-time and accurate licensing information
2. Environmentally friendly
3. Significant cost savings

Attachment: 1. Sample OMBC pocket license
 2. Sample OMBC online license status

Remove your new Pocket License from the receipt portion and carry it with you at all times.

(Please cut along the dotted lines)

Osteopathic Medical Board of California
1300 National Drive, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1991
(916) 928-8390

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OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

License No.
20A65580

HIPPO COUTURE
1234 S BEACH BLVD
WHOVILLE, CA 92804-1812

Expiration
09/30/2025

Original
Issuance Date
09/08/1993

Receipt No.
64768

Signature _____

I M P O R T A N T

1. Please include your license number on any correspondence to this office.
2. Notify the Board of any name or address change in writing.
3. Report any loss immediately in writing to the Board.
4. Please sign and carry the pocket license with you.

License No.	Expiration Date	Receipt No.
20A65580	09/30/2025	64768
HIPPO COUTURE		

This is your RECEIPT. Please save for your records.

LICENSING DETAILS FOR: 65580

NAME: COUTURE, HIPPO

LICENSE TYPE: PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON LICENSE

PRIMARY STATUS: LICENSE RENEWED & CURRENT

SCHOOL NAME: WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



GRADUATION YEAR: 1993

ADDRESS OF RECORD

PO BOX 123
SAMPLE 2, CA 92539-0984

ISSUANCE DATE
SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

EXPIRATION DATE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

CURRENT DATE / TIME
JANUARY 18, 2024
1:41:16 PM

PUBLIC RECORD ACTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (NO RECORDS)

COURT ORDER (NO RECORDS)

MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION (NO RECORDS)

FELONY CONVICTION (NO RECORDS)

MALPRACTICE JUDGMENT (NO RECORDS)

PROBATIONARY LICENSE (NO RECORDS)

HOSPITAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION (NO RECORDS)

LICENSE ISSUED WITH PUBLIC LETTER OF REPRIMAND (NO RECORDS)

ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION ISSUED (NO RECORDS)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (NO RECORDS)

ARBITRATION AWARD (NO RECORDS)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS (NO RECORDS)