



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

and resolved to work with Assembly-member Sally Tanner to evaluate the problem and the need for a new specialty certification (*see supra* LEGISLATION). A representative of the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) commented that two-thirds of AEG's Los Angeles area members are opposed to a new hydrogeology specialty.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Executive Officer: Manuel Urena (916) 445-9040

The Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind has three primary functions. The Board protects the blind guide dog user by licensing instructors and schools to ensure that they possess certain minimum qualifications. The Board also enforces standards of performance and conduct of these licensees as established by law. Finally, the Board polices unlicensed practice.

The Board, authorized by Business and Professions Code section 7200 *et seq.*, consists of seven members, two of whom must be dog users. In carrying out its primary responsibilities, the Board is empowered to adopt and enforce regulations, which are codified in Division 22, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The Board currently licenses three guide dog schools and 48 trainers.

LEGISLATION:

AB 567 (Hunter), as amended April 18, would abolish the Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind and require trainers of guide, signal, or service dogs to register with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA); these registered trainers would be permitted to authorize other persons to train the dogs. DCA would be required to establish and maintain a registry of these persons and issue certificates of registration. This bill is pending in the Assembly Human Services Committee.

SB 756 (Marks), as introduced March 6, would change the composition of the Board by providing that one member shall be the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation or his/her representative, one shall be a veterinarian, one shall be a member of the general public, and the remaining members shall be blind persons who use guide dogs. This bill is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

Following its meeting on May 3, the Board administered an examination to a prospective guide dog trainer. According to the DCA Annual Report, the Board did not administer any exams during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

Chief: Gordon Damant (916) 920-6951

The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHF) is charged with regulating the home furnishings and insulation industries in California. As a division of the state Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), the Bureau's mandate is to ensure that these industries provide safe, properly labeled products which comply with state standards. Additionally, the Bureau is to protect consumers from fraudulent, misleading, and deceptive trade practices by members of the home furnishings, insulation, and dry cleaning industries. The Bureau is established in Business and Professions Code section 19000 *et seq.*

The Bureau establishes rules regarding furniture and bedding labeling and sanitation. To enforce its regulations, which are codified in Division 3, Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), the Bureau has access to premises, equipment, materials, and articles of furniture. The Bureau may issue notices of violation, withhold products from sale, and refer cases to the Attorney General or local district attorney's offices for possible civil penalties. The Bureau may also revoke or suspend a licensee's registration for violation of its rules.

The Bureau is also charged with the registration of dry cleaning plants throughout the state. The registration process includes submission of information regarding the plant's onsite storage, treatment, and disposal of toxic wastes. The Bureau, however, has no enforcement authority regarding this function.

The Bureau is assisted by a thirteen-member Advisory Board consisting of seven public members and six industry representatives.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Governor Appoints New Deputy Chief. On May 2, Governor Pete Wilson announced the appointment of Maria

Guzman-Kennedy of Vallejo as Deputy Chief of BHF. Kennedy, a former business analyst with Cordoba Corporation, will receive an annual salary of \$55,836. Gordon Damant of Sacramento will continue to serve as BHF Chief; he has held this position since 1978 and currently earns an annual salary of \$64,728.

Status of Proposed Increase in License Fees. On May 17, the Bureau submitted its proposed regulatory changes to section 1107, Title 4 of the CCR, to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval; the changes would increase BHF license fees to the maximum levels authorized by law. (See CRLR Vol. 11, No. 2 (Spring 1991) p. 78 and Vol. 11, No. 1 (Winter 1991) pp. 64-65 for background information.) At this writing, BHF is awaiting OAL's response. If approved, the regulatory changes will become effective August 1.

In its review of the fee changes, DCA's Budget Office projected that BHF will face a deficit by the end of the 1993-94 fiscal year, despite the additional revenue from the proposed fee increase. Since the proposed regulatory amendments would raise fees to the maximum levels allowed by law, the Bureau will need to obtain a statutory change before it may increase its fees further.

Furniture Flammability Standards. On May 16, BHF submitted its proposed regulatory changes to sections 1374 and 1374.3, Title 4 of the CCR, to DCA for approval. The proposed revisions would establish higher flammability standards for furniture in public buildings. (See CRLR Vol. 11, No. 2 (Spring 1991) p. 78; Vol. 11, No. 1 (Winter 1991) p. 64; and Vol. 10, No. 4 (Fall 1990) p. 77 for background information.) BHF expects official approval from DCA by mid-June; the Bureau will then submit the regulatory package to OAL for final approval, which is expected in late July. If the regulations are approved, they are scheduled to go into effect January 1, 1992.

Proposed Revisions to the Insulation Quality Standards. BHF has proposed revisions to its Standards for Insulation Material to update existing standards and expand the present types and forms of insulation. The Insulation Quality Standards (IQS) program is a state-mandated program developed to establish standards which protect consumers from unsafe insulation products, minimize fraudulent labeling, and set guidelines for quality control to ensure that maximum energy savings are safely achieved for each energy conservation dollar spent by the consumer. Examples of new types of insulation which would be