



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

licensed kennels, shelters, police departments, and police officers. This bill does not use breed as part of its definition and would prohibit local ordinances that are breed-specific. This bill is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its January meeting, BEVM discussed the issue of whether the implantation of a microchip into an animal for identification purposes constitutes the practice of medicine. Microchip identifiers, primarily used for thoroughbred horses, are implanted with a twelve-gauge needle. The Board has asked legal counsel to determine whether this practice constitutes animal surgery over which the Board has jurisdiction. If this procedure is viewed as preventive rather than surgical, BEVM has no regulatory authority.

Also at the January meeting, the Board heard a request from an out-of-state veterinarian that he be permitted to take the state's reciprocity examination. Normally, out-of-state applicants may qualify for reciprocity and are not required to take the California exam if they have passed an exam within the last five years which is substantially similar to one most recently given in California. The Board also has the authority to waive the five-year requirement upon petition by a licensed out-of-state veterinarian. California uses the National Board examination as its written examination. However, this veterinarian was licensed before the National Board examination was instituted in 1956. The Board determined that it would compare the examination taken by this applicant with the National Board exam, and sections which are substantially similar will be waived. The Board did note, however, that the applicant must still pass the state's reciprocity exam before he will be allowed to practice.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

July 6-7 in San Diego.
September 7-8 (location undecided).
November 9-10 in Monterey.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSE AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN EXAMINERS

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This agency regulates two professions: vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians. Its general purpose is to administer and enforce the provisions of Chapters 6.5 and 10, Division 2, of the Business and Professions Code. A licensed

practitioner is referred to as either an "LVN" or a "psych tech."

The Board consists of five public members, three LVNs, two psych techs, and one LVN with an administrative or teaching background. At least one of the Board's LVNs must have had at least three years' experience working in skilled nursing facilities.

The Board's authority vests under the Department of Consumer Affairs as an arm of the executive branch. It licenses prospective practitioners, conducts and sets standards for licensing examinations, and has the authority to grant adjudicatory hearings. Certain provisions allow the Board to revoke or reinstate licenses. The Board currently licenses approximately 68,000 LVNs and 14,000 psychiatric technicians.

Current Board members include Kathleen Fazzini Barr, LVN (President), Deloyce Arrington, LVN (Vice-President), Gwendolyn Hinchey, RN, Bruce Hines, PT, Kenneth G. Audibert, PT, and public members E. Charles Connor, Betty Fenton, Patricia A. Lang, Helen Lee, and Manuel Val.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Proposed Regulations Approved. At its January meeting, the Board formally adopted numerous amendments to its regulations, which appear in Chapter 25, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. (See CRLR Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 1989) p. 67 for detailed background information.)

Existing regulations regarding faculty qualifications require that a director, assistant director, and instructor at a vocational nursing school hold a current California RN license, and that teaching assistants hold a California LVN license. The proposed changes would require that these licenses be active licenses. Additionally, the changes would stipulate that a director and assistant director of a PT program must hold an active California PT license.

Regarding curriculum content, the Board seeks to clarify the current pharmacology course requirement and to specify five nursing courses that may be taught by non-nurse instructors.

Finally, existing regulations require that an applicant notify the Board and pay an application fee to be scheduled for a subsequent examination. The current proposal would require that an applicant pay a reexamination fee in the amount of \$35 as specified in section 2590.

The Board expected to submit the proposed amendments to the Office of Ad-

ministrative Law by the end of February.

Future Roles of LVNs and PTs. The Education/Practice Subcommittee is currently reviewing proposals made by the Board at its November meeting in Los Angeles. (See CRLR Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 1989) p. 67 for background information.) The proposals, involving possible substantive legislative and regulatory changes, were made by the Board in response to recommendations by the Subcommittee at the same November meeting.

The Board's proposals include changing the current educational requirement for PTs and LVNs to a twelfth-grade education level as opposed to the current tenth-grade education requirement; eliminating PT and LVN licensure eligibility through work experience; and expanding current PT and LVN educational requirements to include inter-relational and communicative skills. The Subcommittee expected to address these recommendations at the Board's May 12 meeting in San Francisco.

License Renewal Changes. The Department of Consumer Affairs recently converted the licensing renewal systems of all healing arts boards to a new computerized system. The implementation of this program has resulted in a design change for PT and LVN licenses and will eliminate the need for the pink receipt cards for PTs and the blue receipt cards for LVNs. The Board welcomes any questions or comments from license holders regarding the new system.

LEGISLATION:

AB 395 (Felando) would require all hemodialysis technicians, vocational nurses, and registered nurses who provide services to dialysis patients in a patient's home to be held to the same requirements as those applicable in a dialysis clinic. This bill is pending in the Assembly Health Committee.

SB 325 (Green) would provide the Board with the authority to suspend or revoke the license of a vocational nurse who uses excessive force upon or mistreats any patient. This bill is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At the January meeting in Palm Springs, the Board elected LVN Kathleen Fazzini Barr as president.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.