



FUTURE MEETINGS:
To be announced.

BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

*Executive Officer: Manuel Urena
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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.

There are three guide dog schools in California. These schools train the blind in the use of guide dogs. Each school also trains its own dogs. Each blind person is then matched with a dog using factors such as size and temperament. To provide this specialized service, the schools must have special facilities, which are inspected by the Board members as needed.

The Board consists of seven members, two of whom must be dog users (Business and Professions Code section 7200).

LEGISLATION:

SB 2229 (Marks) would require the Board to conduct a study on the issue of expansion of the jurisdiction of the Board to include signal dogs for the deaf and hearing impaired, and service dogs for the physically disabled. The Board would be required to complete this study and report to the legislature on or before December 1, 1989. *SB 2229* would also rename the Board as the "Board of Assistance Dogs for the Disabled." The bill is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee; at this writing, no hearing date has been scheduled.

SB 90 (Boatwright), a two-year bill which would have transferred the Board's powers and duties to the Department of Rehabilitation, died in committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its February 26-27 meeting in Palm Springs, the Board tabled discussion of *SB 2229*. The Board's discussion focused on the problem of defining the terms "signal dogs," "service dogs," and "physically handicapped." The Board plans to look to other jurisdictions to determine whether these terms have been defined. The Board also voiced opinion

that mentally handicapped persons should not be covered by this legislation. The Board took no action and will discuss the issue at a future meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS:
To be announced.

BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

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The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHF) regulates manufacturers, wholesalers, dealers, upholsterers, retailers, renovators, and sterilizers of furniture and bedding. In addition, the Bureau establishes rules regarding labeling requirements approved by the state Department of Public Health pertaining to furniture and bedding.

To enforce its regulations, the Bureau has access to premises, equipment, materials, and articles of furniture.

The chief or any inspector may open, inspect and analyze the contents of any furniture or bedding and may condemn, withhold from sale, seize or destroy any upholstered furniture or bedding or any filling material found to be in violation of Bureau rules and regulations. The Bureau may also revoke or suspend registration for violation of its rules.

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

Governor Deukmejian recently appointed Raymond G. Curry to serve on the Bureau's Advisory Board as an industry member. Curry is president and general manager of Curry's Home Furnishings in Sacramento. He replaces William D. Campbell of Laguna Beach, who resigned.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Waterbed Regulations. In its ongoing effort to review waterbed regulations, Bureau staff met in late March with representatives of the waterbed industry to discuss industry recommendations. According to Bureau Chief Gordon Damant, the review is now focused on changes in technology and on the structural integrity of waterbed units, neither of which are addressed by existing regulations.

Of special concern to the Bureau and industry alike are the various chemicals sold by waterbed retailers, such as

cleaning solutions and algae retardants. At present, the Bureau does not regulate these chemicals. The Bureau is concerned that many manufacturers do not use child-proof caps on these toxic products. The Bureau has also been alerted to possible misrepresentations in the sale of the chemicals. For example, the Bureau has heard allegations that some products are simply colored water. On this issue, the Bureau is trying to determine whether it has jurisdiction to regulate these chemical products. The applicable statute authorizes the Bureau to regulate any waterbed "component." However, the Bureau is unsure whether the chemicals qualify as components, and may have to seek clarification from the legislature.

As for structural integrity regulations, the Bureau is reviewing industry recommendations on framing and other materials standards. According to Chief Damant, there has always been concern about the great weight of waterbeds, and the Bureau's regulations should reflect this concern, especially with recent allegations of poor plywood construction.

The Bureau is also working on revised regulations for waterbed heaters, and estimates August 1988 hearing dates for all proposed waterbed regulations. (For additional information, see *CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 56* and *Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring 1987) p. 52*.)

Other Regulatory Activities. The Bureau projects May 1988 hearing dates for regulations to establish flammability standards for seating in high-risk occupancy and public buildings. (See *CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 56*.) Hearings for revised regulations pertaining to insulation material standards are proposed for July 1988. (See *CRLR Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) p. 73*.) The Bureau is also preparing to propose new license fees for home furnishing licensees, and hopes to schedule a hearing on the proposal during May 1988.

At this writing, the Bureau has not yet published any of its proposed regulations in the *Notice Register*.

Disciplinary Actions. Business and Professions Code section 19208 provides for "formal office hearings," whereby the Bureau chief may call in a licensee to discuss what appears to be a serious violation of law, to give the licensee an opportunity to show why the violation occurred and how the problem should be resolved. If the hearing does not result in a concurrent agreement for the resolution of the problem, more formal disciplinary action will be taken.