



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.



Recently, formal office hearings were conducted against the following licensees. Concurrent agreements were reached in each case: Focus Manufacturing, Inc. of Los Angeles, for violations of futon flammability requirements; and Hollander Home Fashions Corporation of Vernon, for violations of labeling requirements for down products.

LEGISLATION:

SB 1745 (Garamendi) addresses fire safety performance standards for cigarettes and little cigars. The bill would direct the State Fire Marshal to prepare and adopt rules and regulations which establish safety standards based on studies conducted by the Bureau. The studies would be supported by private gifts and grants, involving no state funds. The bill would also make violation of the new safety regulations a misdemeanor. The bill is pending in the Business and Professions Committee, and was scheduled for hearing on April 11.

As previously reported, the Bureau has conducted feasibility tests in conjunction with the federal Cigarette Safety Act. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) pp. 55-56 for background information.)

SB 2385 (Campbell) would exempt the sale, installation, and furnishing of carpets from the Contractors License Law. Under existing law, carpet retailers, independent carpet layers, and employed carpet layers are required to qualify for a Flooring Contractor License, issued by the Contractors State License Board. The California Retail Carpet Dealers Association, Inc., is sponsoring SB 2385 to gain relief from the stringent requirements of the Contractors License Law, which include a four-year waiting period for an examination.

Licensing of this class would become the responsibility of the Bureau upon enactment of the bill. The Bureau would issue separate licenses for the sale, renovation, installation, or laying of carpet. The bill would authorize the imposition of an unspecified license fee. Additionally, membership of the Bureau's Advisory Board would be expanded and the bill would create the Carpet Industry Task Force in the Department of Consumer Affairs.

SB 2385 is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

The Advisory Board held its regular quarterly meeting on March 8 in Sacramento. Board members were provided with copies of the Bureau's licensing,

complaint, enforcement, and testing activity reports for the second quarter of the 1987-88 fiscal year (October 1 through December 31). During this period, the Bureau issued original licenses to 835 retailers, manufacturers, suppliers, and dealers. Enforcement activities resulted in the testing of 755 product samples and the withholding from sale of 5,994 articles.

Bureau Chief Damant briefed Board members on the Bureau's activities with other organizations. In February, Damant represented the Bureau at the first meeting of the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Task Group on Furnishings and Contents. Damant serves on the Task Group; other members include representatives from Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., and the National Bureau of Standards. Damant has also been appointed to the Underwriters Laboratories' Consumer Advisory Council. In April, Damant spoke on the subject of residential fire safety at "Symposium III," sponsored by the California State Board of Fire Services.

The Board also discussed the Governor's proposed fiscal year 1988-99 budget for the Bureau. Budget increases are proposed in order to maintain the registration of dry cleaning plants and to conduct flammability and thermal efficiency testing.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

June 14 in San Diego.

September 13 in San Francisco.

December 13 in Los Angeles.

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Executive Officer: Joe Heath
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The Board of Landscape Architects (BLA) licenses those who design landscapes and supervise implementation of design plans. To qualify for a license, an applicant must successfully pass the written exam of the national Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), an additional section covering landscape architecture in California, and an oral examination given by the Board. In addition, an applicant must have the equivalent of six years of landscape architectural experience. This may be a combination of education from a school with a Board-approved program in landscape architecture and field experience.

The Board investigates verified complaints against any landscape architect and prosecutes violations of the Practice Act. The Board also governs the examination of applicants for certificates to practice landscape architecture and establishes criteria for approving schools of landscape architecture.

BLA consists of seven members. One of the members must be a resident of and practice landscape architecture in southern California, and one member must be a resident of and practice landscape architecture in northern California. Three members of the Board must be licensed to practice landscape architecture in the state of California. The other four members are public members and must not be licentiates of the Board. Board members are appointed to four-year terms.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Exam Review. On February 4 in Sacramento, the Central Testing Unit (CTU) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) presented to the BLA its specific findings and conclusions resulting from its study of the Uniform National Examination (UNE), which is developed by CLARB. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 57 for background information.)

The CTU report included recommendations regarding basic test development. Specifically, CTU suggested that an occupational analysis be conducted. Because exam content must be representative of the practice being tested, it is impossible to measure what a competent landscape architect should know without knowing what one does. Even without that empirical basis, however, the CTU stated that the objective sections of the UNE contain many items obviously not suited to determining minimum competence. The CTU also recommended that a greater number and diversity of practitioners should be involved in the test development process. Even if the number is not changed, the approximately thirty people who now write the test should be representative of various geographic and subject areas.

Regarding test administration, CTU suggested that testing procedures should be standardized and fairly applied. Where superior performance on one section offsets inferior performance on another, a compensatory model for combining test scores should be used. The noncompensatory model currently used by CLARB (that is, no offsets for good performance) is appropriate only where sections of the exam are independent of