



to renewal, shall also pay a specified delinquency fee. This bill is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

SB 2220 (Dills), also pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee, would delete statutory provisions which set forth the Board's obligation to repay a \$50,000 loan from the General Fund appropriated in 1986.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Executive Officer: Darlene Stroup (916) 920-7466

The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors regulates the practice of engineering and land surveying through its administration of the Professional Engineers Act and the Professional Land Surveyors' Act.

The basic functions of the Board are to conduct examinations, issue certificates and/or licenses and appropriately channel complaints against its licensees. The Board is additionally empowered to suspend or revoke certificates or licenses. On a routine basis, the Board considers the proposed decisions of administrative law judges who hear appeals of applicants who are denied registration and licensees who have had their licenses suspended or revoked for violations.

The Board consists of thirteen members: seven public members, one licensed land surveyor, four registered practice act engineers and one title act engineer. Eleven of the members are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms which expire on a staggered basis. One public member is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one by the Senate President pro Tempore.

The Board has established seven standing committees dealing with land surveying and the various branches of engineering. These committees, each composed of three Board members, approve or deny applications for examinations and register applicants who pass the examinations. Their actions must have the approval of the entire Board, which is routinely forthcoming.

Professional engineers are now licensed through the three Practice Act categories of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering under section 6730 of the Business and Professions

Code, and the Title Act categories of agricultural, chemical, control system, corrosion, fire protection, industrial, manufacturing, metallurgical, nuclear, petroleum, quality, safety, and traffic engineering.

Structural engineering and soil engineering are linked to the civil Practice Act and require an additional examination after qualification as a Practice Act engineer.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Selection of Executive Officer. Pursuant to the Board's November 20 decision to invite its nine most preferred Executive Officer applicants to interview at their own expense, the Board interviewed seven interested applicants on January 22 in Sacramento. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) pp. 70-71 for background information.) Deliberating in open session, the Board selected Darlene Stroup, William Vizza, and Maurice Kruth as finalists and postponed further consideration until February 26 in Palm Springs. Mr. Vizza and Mr. Kruth are Board-registered civil engineers. Ms. Stroup applied as the Board's Acting Executive Director.

On February 26, the Board selected Darlene Stroup as Executive Officer. Ms. Stroup is a 1979 graduate of UC Davis. Before joining the Board's staff in December 1985 as Assistant Executive Officer, Ms. Stroup served at the State Personnel Board and the Department of Consumer Affairs in occupational testing and budget analysis positions.

LEGISLATION:

AB 981 (Cortese), which would add section 66416.5 to the Government Code to include city engineers with city surveyors within the Subdivision Map Act and within the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, passed the Assembly on January 28 and is pending before the Senate Appropriations Committee at this writing.

AB 1860 (Waters), which would provide a definition for mining and minerals engineers under the Professional Engineers Act, is pending before the Senate Committee on Business and Professions.

SB 790 (Davis), which would have limited the liability of professional engineers in construction projects, was defeated in the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 19.

RECENT MEETINGS:

The Board's January 22 meeting was limited to interviewing Executive Officer applicants.

At its February 26 meeting, in addition to selecting the Executive Officer, the Board adopted passing scores for the August Structural Engineering and October Professional Engineering, Land Surveyor in Training, and Engineer in Training examinations.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

Executive Officer: Catherine Puri (916) 322-3350

The Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) licenses qualified RNs, certifies qualified nurse midwifery applicants, establishes accreditation requirements for California nursing schools and reviews nursing school curricula. A major Board responsibility involves taking disciplinary action against licensed RNs.

The nine-member Board consists of three public members, three registered nurses actively engaged in patient care, one licensed RN administrator of a nursing service, one nurse educator and one licensed physician. All serve four-year terms.

The Board is financed by licensing fees, and receives no allocation from the general fund. The Board is currently staffed by 56 people.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Regulatory Changes. The BRN scheduled a March 21 public hearing in Sacramento regarding several proposed changes to its regulations in chapter 14, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. These changes would affect nurse faculty educational requirements; continuing education (CE) providers, instructors, courses, and attendees; and application processing timeframes for applications from nurse practitioners for a permit to furnish drugs and devices.

As amended, section 1425 would require nurse assistant instructors to hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited college. Currently, section 1425(e) requires assistant instructors to hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college.

As amended, section 1451(d) would no longer permit CE instructors who attend a course for credit and also teach a portion of the course to receive CE credit. A change to section 1451.2(a) would enable RN students taking relevant academic courses to obtain CE credit from a non-BRN-approved pro-



vider institution if the course is taken at an accredited postsecondary institution. As amended, section 1452(b) would broaden the CE exemption for licensees working overseas to include unemployed licensees living overseas.

As amended, section 1454(f) would require approved CE providers to keep course evaluations by attendees on each course given. Section 1455 would permit two hours of home study to equal one CE contact hour based upon a controlled study of a minimum of six persons. Section 1456(c) would clarify the types of courses acceptable for CE.

Proposed changes to section 1457 would modify CE instructor qualifications. Registered nurse instructors would be required to hold a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing. Non-RN instructors would also be required to hold a baccalaureate degree in the area of content or a related field in which he/she proposes to teach. In addition, the non-RN instructor must show evidence of collaboration with an RN who is expert in the subject.

Section 1459 would clarify advertising information required to be disseminated by approved CE providers. When publicizing CE courses, providers must include the following language: "Although the BRN does not approve individual continuing education courses, providers are required by law to be approved by the Board. Complaints regarding continuing education providers or continuing education courses should be addressed to the Board."

Currently, the Board has no regulations specifying timeframes for processing applications by a nurse practitioner (NP) for a number to permit furnishing of drugs and devices pursuant to section 2836.3(a) of the Business and Professions Code. New regulatory section 1483.1 would require the Board to notify NP applicants within thirty days from the receipt of an application that the application is complete and accepted for filing, or that the application is deficient and what specific information is required. A decision on the evaluation of credentials shall be reached within sixty days from the filing of a completed application.

National Nursing License Exam. The California administration of the national standardized nursing license examination was postponed from February 2 until March 8 because of the apparent theft of a portion of the exam. One of the eighty boxes of copies of the exam was missing for a two-day period when the tests were being shipped from

a printer in another state. After the box was located in Los Angeles, there was some evidence of photocopying based on the appearance of the container and one of the exams. Clear evidence of the photocopying was revealed during BRN's regularly scheduled January meeting. Members voted, in closed session, to reschedule the exam, according to Susan Brank, Assistant Executive Director of the Board.

California applicants were given a special alternative test on March 8. The decision by 44 states to proceed with the national examinations in February could cloud the interstate acceptance of the winter test scores for applicants nationwide. Nursing boards in fifty states and ten U.S. jurisdictions administer the same standardized exam. Nurses licensed in other states who move to California are usually not required to retake the licensing exam. However, the Board must now decide whether to accept the February tests.

Representatives from the National Council of Registered Nurses, which drafted the standardized exam, were scheduled to meet with the Board at its March 24 meeting in closed session. During its open session on March 25, the Board was scheduled to decide whether to accept the February scores, according to Brank.

Position Paper on Management of Medications by RNs. BRN's Nursing Practice Committee recently developed a position paper documenting the history of standardized procedures and the legal interpretations which support the Board's position on the management of medications by RNs. This paper reaffirms the Board's position that RNs may manage medication under standardized procedures, and do not have independent authority to prescribe.

At the Board's January meeting, the California Nurses Association (CNA) requested postponement of the vote to accept the position paper. According to the CNA representative, postponement would allow time to prepare public comment. Although the paper was presented at the Nursing Practice Committee meeting on January 9, it was not distributed to the public. CNA voiced concern that the Board's definition of "management of medications" was not clear. However, the BRN voted to accept the position paper, with possible additions and clarifications by the Nursing Practice Committee.

LEGISLATION:

SB 645 (Royce), as introduced,

would have authorized BRN and the Board of Medical Quality Assurance's Division of Allied Health Professions (DAHP) to jointly promulgate regulations establishing standards for services which may be performed by a medical assistant. As amended in January, BRN has been removed from the bill; only DAHP will promulgate the regulations, after requesting recommendations regarding the proposed standards from appropriate public agencies. The BRN opposes this bill, which was scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on March 8.

SB 1235 (Montoya), which would prohibit dentists from administering or utilizing a qualified anesthesia provider for the administration of conscious sedation unless the dentist has a permit issued by the Board of Dental Examiners, is still pending in the Assembly Health Committee, with no hearing date scheduled. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 66 for background information.)

SB 1267 (Maddy), as amended March 15, would establish the California Registered Nurse Education Program within the Minority Health Professions Education Foundation. The program would be funded by increasing the license renewal fee for RNs by not less than \$5, starting in January 1989. The Board supports this bill in concept, if amended to have fee increases effective July 1, 1989, instead of January 1989. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) p. 90.) This bill was also scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on March 8.

SB 1552 (Kopp) would require boards regulating health care professionals to consider inclusion of training in the characteristics and treatment of AIDS in their continuing education and training requirements for licensees. This bill is pending in the Assembly Health Committee. The Board has adopted a watch position.

AB 87 (Agnos), as amended on January 7, would permit the disclosure of the results of a patient's blood test to detect human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antibodies (antibodies to the probable causative agent of AIDS) to health care providers, including nurses, without the patient's consent. This bill has passed the Senate and has been returned to the Assembly for concurrence. The BRN supports this bill. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 66 for background information.)



RECENT MEETINGS:

At its January 21-22 meeting in Los Angeles, the Board elected new officers. Delia Goggins, RN, MS, was selected BRN President for another year. Ms. Goggins, the RN nursing service administrator member of the Board, is owner and Director of Nursing of Southland Home Health Services, Inc., in Los Angeles. Patricia Hunter, RN, MS, was voted Vice President, replacing Radell Fraser, RN. Ms. Hunter, a direct patient care member of the Board, is Cardiac Program Coordinator at Chula Vista Community Hospital.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

May 19-20 in San Diego.
July 21-22 in San Francisco.
September 22-23 in Los Angeles.
November 17-18 in San Francisco.

BOARD OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS

*Executive Officer: Richard Black
(916) 445-5101*

The Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters (BCSR) licenses and disciplines shorthand reporters, recognizes court reporting schools and administers the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, which provides shorthand reporting services to low-income litigants otherwise unable to afford such services.

The Board consists of five members, three public and two from the industry, who serve four-year terms. The two industry members must have been actively engaged as shorthand reporters in California for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Examinations. Four hundred fifty-eight test candidates took the November 1987 dictation/transcription examination; 256 candidates passed the exam for a 56% pass percentage rate.

Regulatory Changes. On February 20, the Board conducted a regulatory hearing on proposed amendments to its regulations, which appear in chapter 24, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 2400 was modified to specify that the Board's principal office is in Sacramento; section 2404 was amended to delete references to "executive secretary" and instead refer to the Board's "executive officer."

The Board adopted several amendments to section 2411. The title of the

section was changed to add the term "Continuing Validity; Reports." Section 2411(a)(9), regarding apprenticeship training, was amended to increase the required number of training hours to forty hours, consisting of twenty hours of court proceedings or administrative hearings, and twenty hours of depositions for a total of 1,940 prescribed hours. Section 2411(b) was amended to delete the requirement that court reporting schools determine equivalent proficiency by examination.

New section 2411(c) was added to require a high school to maintain a library of reference materials including specified materials. New section 2411(d) was also added, to provide for continued validity of a certificate of recognition for a court reporting school until suspended or revoked for failure to comply with statutory provisions or Board regulations. New section 2411(e) requires schools to advise applicants of the Board's existence and purpose, and print the Board's address and telephone number in any catalogs.

Section 2419 was also substantially amended; its new title is "Examination Application and Fee." Editorial changes were made to sections 2419(a)-(e), and new section 2419(f) was added to allow examination fees to be credited toward the next scheduled exam where an applicant is unable to take the scheduled exam because of reasons of health, transfer, or other good cause. New section 2419(g) was also added to specify that examination fees will not be refunded.

New section 2420 was added to specify that the exam consists of English, professional practice, and dictation/transcription, and that the passing scores are 70%, 75%, and 97.5%, respectively. It would further require that all three parts of the exam must be passed within three consecutive calendar years or six consecutive examinations, whichever is greater, and provide that an applicant who passes one or two parts of the exam shall receive conditional credit for those parts passed and need only be reexamined in the remaining part(s).

LEGISLATION:

AB 1523 (Leslie) has died in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. This bill would have required the Judicial Council to assess the costs of using video recorders as a means of producing the verbatim record of court or other official proceedings. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 72 for details on this bill.)

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its February meeting, the Board discussed a request to require court reporting schools to report to the Board the names and addresses of enrolled students with certain speed levels. Firm owners are interested in students with above average entry level skills. This list would identify individuals with potential; those students could be notified of programs and seminars relevant to the students' chosen goals. The industry is also concerned about strengthening the profession and would like to sponsor programs geared to help prepare these students to meet future employment needs. Both the industry and the individual firms who made this request of the Board did so because of lack of cooperation from the schools in passing this information along to students. The request from the California Court Reporters Association cites a similar program provided by the Board of Cosmetology. The Board noted that the request would require changes in the existing law or regulations.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

June 18 in Los Angeles.

STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD

*Registrar: Mary Lynn Ferreira
(916) 924-2291*

The Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) licenses structural pest control operators and field representatives. The latter can function only under a licensed operator and secure pest control work for the operator. Each structural pest control firm is required to have one licensed operator, regardless of the number of branches the firm operates. A licensed field representative can also hold an operator's license.

Licenses are classified as: (1) Branch 1, Fumigation, the control of household and wood-destroying pests by fumigants (tenting); (2) Branch 2, General Pest, the control of general pests without fumigants; or (3) Branch 3, Termite, the control of wood-destroying organisms with insecticides, but not with the use of fumigants, and including authority to perform structural repairs and corrections. An operator can be licensed in all three branches, but more often will limit the variety of his or her expertise for purposes of efficiency and subcontract out to other firms.

SPCB also issues applicator certificates. These otherwise unlicensed indi-