would clearly state specific guidelines that would help local authorities in establishing a consistency in accepting death certificates.... In addition, Mr. Wagstaff stated, "If the Senator [Roberts] would propose some legislative remedy in this matter, [BMQA] would follow the legislation, analyze its impact and assist in making it a workable law to enforce." However, Mr. Wagstaff noted that, "[s]uch a law would be under the purview of the Department of Health Services."

Preneed Committee Report. At its September 8 meeting in Sacramento, the Board's Preneed Committee, comprised of Board members Virginia Anthony and Randall Stricklin, discussed possible amendments to section 1265, Title 16 of the California Administrative Code. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 1 (Winter 1987) p. 43; Vol. 6, No. 1 (Winter 1986) p. 30; and Vol. 5, No. 4 (Fall 1985) p. 29 for background information.) After lengthy deliberation, the Committee formulated specific recommendations for Board consideration.

Currently, the first paragraph of section 1265 limits the annual trust administration fee, including a trustee fee, to 2.5% of the trust corpus, and the second paragraph specifically prohibits use of the trust corpus or income to pay any expenses, and Board consideration of sales commission, rent, or salary. The Committee's recommendations include amendment of section 1265 to delete the second paragraph regarding sales expenses, and Board consideration of "[t]he adoption of a regulation, or other necessary action, which would specifically permit the collection of a 'service charge,' 'set-up fee,' 'arrangement fee' or 'consultation fee,' outside of any trust arrangement. This fee would be for the services actually provided in establishing a prearrangement and might be limited to a percentage or a maximum dollar amount or a percentage not to exceed a maximum dollar amount. The fee would also have to be disclosed on any and all price disclosure, itemization, or general price list documents. At its September 25 meeting in San Diego, the Board entertained public discussion regarding the Preneed Committee's recommendations for amendments to section 1265. Following the discussion, the Board referred the issue back to the Preneed Committee for revision of the amendment's second paragraph.

LEGISLATION:

SB 90 (Boatwright) would repeal the statutes creating the Cemetery Board, transfer that Board's powers and duties to the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, and increase the membership of the Funeral Board by adding a cemetery industry representative. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) pp. 63 and 70 for details on this bill.)

The following bills, discussed in CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 50, have been dropped by their authors:

AB 801 (Calderon) would have authorized a trustee who has a duty or power to pay a decedent's debts to publish a notice in a newspaper, as specified, providing for the submission of claims for payment.

AB 1838 (Stirling) would have provided that the statutes regulating preneed funeral arrangements do not apply to cemetery or funeral merchandise and services which are delivered as soon as paid for.

AB 2550 (Allen) would have required that persons subject to licensure by a board, bureau, committee, or other licensing entity within the Department of Consumer Affairs report adverse judgments relating to their professional capacity or business conduct.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its November 19 meeting in San Francisco, the Board discussed but took no formal action regarding the revision and modernization of the Funeral Directors and Embalmers Law (Chapter 12, Division 3, Business and Professions Code). The Board's Legislative Committee and an advisory committee consisting of Board members and eleven other individuals are assisting in the revision process. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 50.)

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS

Executive Officer: John W. Wolfe (916) 445-1920

The Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (BRGG) was created by statute in 1969. This eight-member Board licenses geologists and geophysicists and certifies engineering geologists. These designations are determined by examinations administered twice each year. The Board also has the power to discipline licensees who act in violation of the Board's licensing statutes. The Board may issue a citation to licensees or unlicensed persons for violations of Board rules. These citations may be accompanied by an administrative fine of up to $2,500.

The Board is composed of five public members and three professional members. BRGG's staff consists of two full-time employees (Executive Officer John Wolfe and his secretary) and two part-time personnel. The Board's committees include the Professional Practices, Legislative, and Examination Committees. BRGG is funded by the fees it generates. The 1987 budget bill increased the Board's budget by $1,000, bringing its current total to $219,000.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Licensing Exam Revision. At its October 5 meeting, the Board heard a report on the Examination Committee's progress in revising the licensing exam. While noting that many of the current questions are not out of date, the Committee suggested that the number of questions in some categories be decreased to allow for other questions covering additional areas of growing concern for geologists and geophysicists, such as groundwater pollutants and waste disposal. The Examination Committee will meet in closed session on April 16-17 to review the exam and make any changes deemed necessary.

Regulatory Changes. Also at the October 5 meeting, the Board voted to adopt a proposed amendment to section 3005, Title 16 of the California Administrative Code, which increases the initial registration and renewal fees for geologists and geophysicists from $80 to $100. The rule change also increases the renewal fee for a specialty geologist from $10 to $20. The Board also adopted a proposed amendment to section 3003 of its regulations, which specifies that the term "code," as used in the Board's rules, refers to the Business and Professions Code. The amendments to sections 3003 and 3005 were approved by the Office of Administrative Law in January.

The Professional Practices Committee has identified a need to specify core curricula. Therefore, as of this writing, BRGG is discussing the possibility of proposing a rule which would specify permissible core curricula for degrees which relate to its licenses.

LEGISLATION:

AB 1727 (Condit). The Board opposed an August 18 amendment to AB 1727, which would have repealed the requirement that the State Geologist be a registered geologist in California.

BRGG believes that the State Geolo-
fist should have the same qualifications as other practicing geologists throughout the state, since the State Geologist often speaks, acts, and reports as a representative of the state in matters pertaining to geology hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity, and subsidence. In addition, it is the Board's opinion that geology documents issued by the Division of Mines and Geology must be signed by a registered geologist. The law does not permit a licensed geophysicist to sign the geologic reports, maps, and documents which may be required of the State Geologist. AB 1727 was vetoed by the Governor on September 30.

SB 86 (Boatwright) originally called for the abolition of BRGG. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 51.) Following an interim hearing in Palm Springs on December 7, at which public comments on SB 86 and several similar measures were heard, SB 86 was amended into SB 87, which originally called for the abolition of the Board of Landscape Architects (BLA). As amended January 12, SB 87 would have merged the BRGG and the BLA. However, following cancellation of a January 14 hearing before the Senate Business and Professions Committee, Senator Boatwright's office indicated that the Senator will no longer pursue SB 87.

RECENT MEETINGS:
At its October meeting, the Board discussed an article in the September 1987 issue of Geotimes, a magazine distributed nationally to geology professionals by the American Geological Institute in Washington, D.C., encouraging states to provide specialty certification for groundwater geologists. At this time BRGG has no plans to create such a specialty certification. One reason for this position is the concern that specialty certification in groundwater may actually conflict with existing laws and regulations. Additionally, this certification would not include licensed engineers and petroleum engineers, who are exempt from the registration requirements of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act and could therefore continue to practice in the field of groundwater geology without specialty certification. T.L. Wright, chair of BRGG's Professional Practices Committee, was given permission to send a letter to Geotimes voicing the Board's concerns.

The Board is participating in a cooperative effort with a committee from the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, focusing on areas of overlap in the boards' respective professions. A working paper currently used by the executive officers of both agencies is being revised to assist the officers in situations in which there is a question as to which class of licensee must attend to a particular task.

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.

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).

MAJOR PROJECTS:
Board Anniversary. On December 4 in Pasadena, Senator Newton Russell honored Dorothy Walker-Scott, who is credited with aiding in the creation of the Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind. The Board itself was recognized with a joint Senate resolution commemorating its fortieth anniversary.

RECENT MEETINGS:
At the Board's December 5-6 meeting in Palm Springs, discussion centered on the accessibility of blind persons and their dogs into hospital facilities. While the Board has confirmed a need for guide dogs to be allowed admission when blind persons are visitors to hospitals, it has not taken a similar position regarding dogs of blind patients. In the case of patients' dogs, Board members are concerned about the dogs' presence having a negative impact on hospital personnel during the hospitalization. As to dogs of blind visitors, an Attorney General spokesperson has stated that a guide dog accompanying a blind visitor should be allowed access to any public area of the hospital.

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) 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.

MAJOR PROJECTS:
Cigarette Safety Act. The federal Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 established an interagency committee and a technical study group to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of developing cigarettes and little cigars which would be less likely to ignite upholstered furniture and mattresses. At the request of the technical study group, the Bureau conducted tests for smoldering ignition of chairs by various cigarettes. The results of the tests were presented in three reports submitted to the interagency committee in October.

The tests conducted by the Bureau and other groups led the committee to report to Congress that "it is technically feasible and may be commercially feasible to develop cigarettes that will have a significantly reduced propensity to