



The Board reacquainted itself with the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG), administered by the AVMA and endorsed by the BEVM. California requires that foreign veterinary graduates (FVGs) obtain a certificate from the ECFVG before they are eligible to take the state licensure examination. Candidates who wish to obtain an ECFVG certificate must demonstrate an ability to communicate in and understand written and spoken English. Passing scores must be obtained on the Test of English as a Foreign Language and the Test of Spoken English. FVGs must then pass the National Board Examination and the Clinical Competency Test in veterinary medicine. Successful completion of one year of evaluated clinical experience at a site approved by the ECFVG is the final requirement to earning a ECFVG certificate.

The Board listened to requests from two state Board examination candidates, asking for a modification of the testing procedures in order to accommodate their specific disabilities. The Board was previously aware of each candidates' special situation, and was advised of its responsibility to make reasonable accommodations to each candidate. The special arrangements, as agreed to by both the Board and the candidates themselves, were granted.

The Animal Health Technician Examining Committee held a public hearing at its October meeting concerning several proposed regulation changes. One such change would repeal section 2066, which requires that graduates of a Board-approved, non-two-year curriculum in animal health technology pass an examination and obtain at least 1,000 hours of practical experience prior to registration as an AHT. The proposal would eliminate the 1,000-hour requirement. Two new eligibility categories would be established with the adoption of sections 2068.5 and 2068.6. Section 2068.5 would allow candidates who are currently working in the field as unregistered assistants to combine credits obtained at local community colleges or universities (50 hours) with their practical work experience (36 months) in order to become eligible to sit for the AHT examination. Section 2068.6 would enable certified or registered animal health technicians from other states or countries to become eligible to sit for the AHT exam. The Committee heard oral testimony from the public on these proposed changes. CVMA and students of AHT programs expressed their opposi-

tion to the repeal of the 1,000-hour work requirement. Both groups are concerned with maintaining the "current level of competency" in the profession. Representatives of several private schools with AHT programs related their support for the repeal of this section, claiming that such a requirement is unnecessary. The Committee will continue its discussion of these proposed changes at future meetings.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

March 10-11 in San Jose.
 May 14-15 in Santa Barbara.
 July 7-8 in San Diego.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSE AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN EXAMINERS *Executive Officer: Billie Haynes (916) 445-0793*

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. The Board consists of five public members, three licensed vocational nurses, two psychiatric interns, and one licensed vocational nurse 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. A licensed practitioner is either an "LVN" or a "psych tech."

The Board currently licenses approximately 68,000 LVNs and 14,000 psychiatric technicians.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Licensing Report. The Board released year-end figures (7/1/85 through 6/30/86) on licensing actions for vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians. The Board issued 5,427 new licenses and 26,560 renewals to vocational nurses. The passage rate for the vocational nurse exam was 54%; 3,929 people passed the exam. The Board issued 582 new licenses and 8,983 renewals to psychiatric technicians. The exam passage rate for psy-

chiatric technicians was 75%; 590 people passed the exam.

Authorization of Program Changes. Kaiser Permanente requested that Glendale Community College Vocational Nursing Program start a part-time vocational nursing program. Kaiser specifically asked that the program be tailored for nursing assistants who are currently employed at its facility. The Board approved the additional class for fifteen students for a part-time 79-week program, which is scheduled to begin in late 1986.

The Board removed Cerritos College Vocational Nursing Program from its list of accredited programs. The college graduated its last class in June 1984. The program has not operated since that time due to insufficient enrollment.

The Board released a list of deficiencies to United Health Careers Institute concerning its proposed psychiatric technician program. (See CRLR Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) p. 57.) United Health plans to rectify the deficiencies and hopefully present the revised program for approval at the next Board meeting. United Health initiated its request on May 27, 1986. The proposed program would be located in San-Bernardino and would share classrooms and lab space with United Health's accredited vocational nursing program. The initial class enrollment requested is fifteen students.

The Board approved Pacific Coast College's request to allow thirty students into its part-time vocational nursing program four times per year. The first class under this program commenced in October 1986.

National Council of State Boards of Nursing Report. The National Council's Delegate Assembly asked its Examination Committee to review and revise the NCLEX-RN test. The Assembly authorized a one-year continuing job analysis of entry-level registered nurses during fiscal year 1988. The California Board plans to provide the National Council with input concerning these issues. The Board referred the study to its Education Subcommittee for monitoring.

The National Council also proposed instituting pass-fail scoring on the exams. Those who pass would receive notice that they passed, while those who failed would receive a numerical score. This change will prevent the test scores from being used as a basis for hiring. The California Board referred the issue to its Examination Subcommittee for a policy decision. The Board plans to submit feedback to the National Council on the issue.



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

Psychiatric Workers' New Union. Judge Blubaugh, an administrative law judge, ruled that psychiatric technicians in state mental hospitals may be represented by a newly-formed independent public employees union. The new union, California Association of Psychiatric Technicians, replaces the Communication Workers of America.

LEGISLATION:

SB 1638 (Greene) is scheduled for

reintroduction this session, and would create a Certified Nurse Assistant program. The bill would prohibit people from holding themselves out as certified nurse assistants unless they have a certificate from the Board. The proposed effective date is June 30, 1987.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Superintendent: Louis Carter
(415) 557-3232

The State Banking Department administers all laws applicable to corporations engaging in the commercial banking or trust business, including the establishment of state banks and trust companies; the establishment, operation, relocation and discontinuance of various types of offices of these entities; and the establishment, operation, relocation and discontinuance of various types of offices of foreign banks. The superintendent, the chief officer of the Department, is appointed by and holds office at the pleasure of the Governor.

The superintendent approves applications for authority to organize and establish a corporation to engage in the commercial banking or trust business. In acting upon the application, the superintendent must consider:

(1) the character, reputation and financial standing of the organizers or incorporators and their motives in seeking to organize the proposed bank or trust company;

(2) the need for banking or trust facilities in the proposed community;

(3) the ability of the community to support the proposed bank or trust company, considering the competition offered by existing banks or trust companies; the previous banking history of the community; opportunities for profitable use of bank funds as indicated by the average demand for credit; the number of potential depositors; the volume of bank transactions; and the stability, diversity and size of the businesses and industries of the community. For trust companies, the opportunities for profitable employment of fiduciary services are also considered;

(4) the character, financial responsibility, banking or trust experience and business qualifications of the proposed officers; and

(5) the character, financial responsibility, business experience and standing of the proposed stockholders and directors.

The superintendent may not approve any application unless he/she determines that the public convenience and advantage will be promoted by the establishment of the proposed bank or trust company; conditions in the locality of the proposed bank or trust company afford reasonable promise of successful operation; the bank is being formed for legitimate purposes; the proposed name does not so closely resemble as to cause confusion the name of any other bank or



BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Director: Jay Stroh
(916) 445-3221

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is a constitutionally-authorized state department. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act vests the Department with the exclusive right and power to license and regulate the manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, and transportation of alcoholic beverages within the state. In addition, the Act vests the Department with authority, subject to certain federal laws, to regulate the importation and exportation of alcoholic beverages across state lines. ABC issues liquor licenses and investigates violations of the Business and Professions Code and other criminal acts which occur on premises where alcohol is sold. Many of the disciplinary actions taken by ABC, along with other information concerning the Department, are printed in the liquor industry trade publications "Beverage Bulletin" and "Beverage Industry News."

ABC divides the state into two divisions with assistant directors in charge of each division. The state is further subdivided into 21 districts, with two districts maintaining branch offices.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Alcohol Abuse Programs. ABC has recently formulated several strategies to fight alcohol abuse. One such strategy involves limitations on promotions sponsored by breweries aimed at college campuses. Another major focus will be on increased training programs for servers of alcoholic beverages. ABC has supported enforcement teams consisting of ABC officials and local police, a

method which ABC plans to continue and expand.

Aside from public health and welfare matters, ABC is also involved in economic regulation. ABC, along with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, has developed a coordinated program to enforce regulations which ban wholesaling of alcoholic beverages by retailers.

Public Hearings. Senate Concurrent Resolution 65 (Russell) requested that ABC conduct hearings on the elimination of specified marketing practices which promote the overconsumption of alcoholic beverages. The Resolution asked that ABC consider the adoption of rules to prohibit these practices and report to the legislature on the results of any action taken. Pursuant to this resolution, ABC conducted its first hearing on December 17 in Sacramento. ABC will schedule the next hearing in Los Angeles and a third hearing in San Francisco, if necessary.

LEGISLATION:

SB 1546 (Beverly), now law, provides that no license or permit is required for the serving of alcoholic beverages in a limousine by any person operating a limousine service regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, provide there is no extra charge or fee for the alcoholic beverages.

SB 124 (Mello), introduced December 30, would prohibit any person licensed by ABC from importing wine into California that was produced outside the United States unless that person certifies that each shipment of wine meets the requirements of the Sherman Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law.