



MEMORANDUM

DATE January 22, 2013

TO Veterinary Medical Board

FROM Sue Geranen Executive Officer
DCA/Veterinary Medical Board

SUBJECT **Controlled Substances Reporting (CURES)**

Background:

The CURES program is a program that requires licensees to report dispensing of controlled substances to a state agency, previously the Department of Justice. The program has suffered funding issues in the past and last year there was a bill designed to correct these funding issues, SB 616. The bill died, but the funding issues are still alive, so we expect to see another bill this year that creates a new fund source for the program.

Some of the issues identified last year were:

1. The mandated fee increase – consider changing “shall” to “may.” Given the Board’s budget levels, this board may be able to absorb the cost of the program within existing fees by doing a fee decrease and then adding the specific fee for CURES back into the existing fee levels.
2. The bill mandates the fee increase by 2014 “if” the AG determines that the program has insufficient funds – the reason for the bill itself is because the insufficient funding has already been identified. .
3. The fee is set at \$10 annually – that would be \$20 per renewal every two years. Currently, we have no cost/benefit analysis or justification of how that amount was determined. Usually when there is a cost that is shared between board, the cost is pro rated based on numbers of licensees.
4. There is no mandate for reporting back to the eight boards listed in the bill on how much money was transferred and on the condition and balance of the CURES fund. What if \$10 is either too much or too little? What happens then?

The Board discussed the issue at its October meeting and delegated to its Legislative Committee the authority to participate in future discussion and investigate further, the Board’s options. This point there was one meeting in which it was discussed that a proposal would be forthcoming, but the Board has not received anything yet.

The narrative portion of SB 616 is in the binder to provide a description of the program and an update of the history of the discussion.

Action Requested:

Continue to monitor and delegate authority to the Board President and/or Legislative Committee and the Executive Officer to participate in discussions to develop language for a new bill.