

**Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board**

Notice of Proposed Changes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the action proposed at a hearing to be held at the Hearing Room at, 2005 Evergreen Street, Sacramento, California at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2013.

Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under Contact Person in this Notice, must be received by the Board at its office not later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2013, or must be received by the Board at the hearing.

The Board upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested party may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as contact person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

Authority and Reference:

Pursuant to authority vested by Business and Professions Code section 4808 and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 135, 4800, 4841.1, 4841.4, 4841.5, 4842.5, 4846.1, and 4848 the Board is considering changes to Division 20 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

A. Informative Digest

BPC section 4808 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, or repeal such rules and regulations as may be reasonably necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of the Veterinarian Medicine Practice Act.

This regulatory proposal will adopt or amend CCR sections 2002, 2010, 2010.1, 2010.2, 2014, 2014.1, 2015, 2015.1, 2068.6, and 2071.

B. Policy Statement Overview/Anticipated Benefits of Proposal

BPC section 4841.4 specifically directs the Board, among other things, to establish that the examination for veterinary technicians shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians. The Board currently administers a single veterinary technician examination that measures knowledge on health care tasks in California.

The Board currently administers a single veterinary technician examination that focuses on California animal health care tasks. By incorporating the national veterinary

technician examination as a prerequisite to eligibility for licensure the Board is formally adopting the national minimum competency standard for veterinary technicians. Then, by creating a separate examination specific to animal health care tasks in California the Board will be more effective testing for all minimum competencies of veterinary technology in California and thereby affording increased protection to the consumer through increased assessment of their knowledge and ability to perform veterinary technician specific job tasks.

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) approves veterinary technician applicants for most licensing jurisdictions. Only those applicants who have graduated from American Veterinary Medical Association accredited schools are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) through the AAVSB approval process. California veterinary technician candidates who apply for examination eligibility through California's "alternate route" (CCR section 2068.5) will be made eligible to take the VTNE. Adopting the VTNE as the single standard for competency provides consumer protection and allows veterinary technicians more licensure mobility from state to state.

C. Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations

The Board has evaluated this regulatory proposal and it is not inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None

Local Mandate: None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Sections 17500 - 17630 Require Reimbursement: None

Business Impact:

The board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

BPC section 4841.4 directs the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.

Along with other application requirements, veterinary technician candidates are required to have passed the VTNE and California veterinary technician examination prior licensure and presumed employment by a California business as a registered veterinary technician examination. The Board does not anticipate there will be any change to the number of veterinary technician applicants based on the new examination requirements.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business:

The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Effect on Housing Costs: None

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Board has determined that the proposed regulations would not affect small businesses. BPC section 4841.4 directs the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ANALYSIS:

Impact on Jobs/Businesses:

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have any impact on the creation of jobs or new businesses or the elimination of jobs or existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California.

Benefits of Regulation:

By requiring California veterinary technician applicants to take the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination consumers are assured that veterinary technicians have met the national examination standard as well as the California standard thereby affording increased protection to the consumer through increased assessment of their knowledge and ability to practice veterinary technician specific job tasks.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION

The Board has prepared an initial statement of the reasons for the proposed action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, and any document incorporated by

reference, and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the Board at 2005 Evergreen Street, Sacramento, California 95815

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below or by accessing the website listed below.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name:	Ethan Mathes
Address:	Veterinary Medical Board 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250 Sacramento, CA 95815
Telephone No.:	916-263-1598
Fax No.:	916-263-2621
E-Mail Address:	ethan.mathes@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name:	Susan Geranen, Executive Officer
Address:	same as above
Telephone No.:	916-263-2610
Fax No.:	916-263-2621
E-Mail Address:	vmb@dca.ca.gov

Website Access: Materials regarding this proposal can be found at www.vmb.ca.gov.

Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board

*Changes to the modified language are shown in
strikeout for deleted text and underline for new text.*

2002. Definitions.

For the purposes of the rules and regulations contained in this chapter, the term "board" means the Veterinary Medical Board; ~~the term "committee" means the Registered Veterinary Technician Committee;~~ the term "code" means the Business and Professions Code, and the term "client" means any person for whom veterinary medical services are performed or to whom veterinary medical products or services are sold or provided.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4800 and 4832, Business and Professions Code.

2010. Application.

(a) An application for eligibility evaluation for the California State Board examination shall be submitted to the board at its principal place of business on an application form and pursuant to instructions prescribed and provided by the board, accompanied by such evidence, statements, or documents as therein required. The Board shall complete the eligibility evaluation and notify the candidate of eligibility and/or status.

Once eligibility is established, the candidate will be authorized to take the computer based California State Board examination. If an applicant fails their first scheduled examination, the applicant must reapply by submitting to the board required application forms and fees.

(b) An application for eligibility evaluation for the national veterinary technician examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination shall be submitted on an application form and pursuant to instructions prescribed and provided by the board, accompanied by such evidence, statements, or documents as therein required. The board shall complete the eligibility evaluation and notify the candidate of eligibility and/or status.

Once eligibility is established, the candidate will be authorized to take the computer based national veterinary technician examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination. If an applicant fails ~~their first~~ a scheduled examination, the applicant must reapply by submitting to the board required application forms and fees.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2010.1. Eligibility Evaluation - National Veterinarian Examination.

All applicants applying for eligibility evaluation for the national veterinarian examination shall submit an application and required supporting documents to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

(a) Applicants from an American Veterinary Medical Association AVMA accredited college of veterinary medicine must submit proof of senior status and of being within eight months of graduation.

(b) Applicants from a veterinary college not recognized by the board shall submit supporting documents to substantiate either:

1. certificate of completion of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates program (ECFVG) or

2. certificate of completion of the Program for Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE).

(c) Upon the determination of an applicant's eligibility for the national veterinarian examination, the AAVSB shall notify the applicant of his or her eligibility to take the national veterinarian examination and transmit the applicant's eligibility information to the National Board Examination Committee or its authorized representative.

(d) All applicants with current and valid eligibility on file with the AAVSB may make proper application to the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners or its authorized representative for the national veterinarian examination.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4846.1 and 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2010.2. Eligibility Evaluation - National Veterinary Technician Examination.

Upon the determination of an applicant's eligibility for the national veterinary technician examination, the board shall notify the candidate and the AAVSB of the applicant's eligibility to take the national veterinary technician examination and transmit the applicant's eligibility information to the AAVSB or its authorized representative.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4846.1 and 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2014. Veterinary Licensing Examination.

(a) The veterinary licensing examination shall consist of a national veterinarian examination, a California state board examination, and the veterinary medicine practice act examination which shall be referred to as the veterinary law examination.

(b) Subject to the provisions of section 2015, every applicant who obtains a passing score determined by the Angoff criterion-referenced method of establishing the pass point in the national veterinarian examination shall be deemed to have passed the national examination. Such a passing score may vary moderately with changes in test composition.

(c) Every applicant who obtains a passing score determined by the Angoff criterion-referenced method of establishing the pass point in the California state board examination shall be deemed to have passed the California state board examination. Such a passing score may vary moderately with changes in test composition.

(d) Every applicant who obtains a score of at least 80% on the veterinary law examination shall be deemed to have passed that examination.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2014.1 Veterinary Technician Licensing Examination.

(a) The veterinary technician licensing examination shall consist of the national veterinary technician examination and a California veterinary technician examination.

(b) Subject to the provisions on Section 2015, every applicant who obtains a passing score determined by the Angoff criterion-referenced method of establishing the pass point on the national veterinary technician examination and on the California veterinary technician examination shall be deemed to have passed the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination. Such a passing score may vary moderately with changes in test composition.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4841.4, Business and Professions Code.

2015. Examinations Credit.

(a) An applicant for licensure as a veterinarian who passes the national veterinarian examination, the California state board examination and the veterinary law examination within the sixty month period immediately following the date of the administration of the initial examination ~~receiving a passing score~~ shall be deemed to have met the examination requirements for licensure.

(b) Where an applicant for licensure as a veterinarian fails to pass the national veterinarian examination, the California state board examination, and the veterinary law examination within the specified sixty month period, the applicant shall be required to retake and pass all those examinations.

(c) An applicant for registration as a veterinary technician who passes the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination within the sixty month period immediately following the date of the administration of the initial examination shall be deemed to have met the examination requirements for registration.

(d) Where an applicant for licensure as a veterinary technician fails to pass the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination within the specified sixty month period, the applicant shall be required to retake and pass all those examinations.

~~(e)~~ (e) Any applicant who has failed an examination or who has failed to pass all required examinations within the specified ~~60~~ sixty month period may apply to be re-examined at a subsequent examination.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 135 and 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2015.1. Substantially Similar Examinations; Conditional Credit.

(a) An applicant for licensure as a veterinarian who has taken the national veterinarian examination out of state and has achieved a score on such examination at least equal to the score required to pass the national examination under Section 2014, shall receive conditional credit for that examination.

(b) Applicants for licensure as a veterinarian receiving conditional examination credit in accordance with this section shall complete the national veterinarian examination, the California state board examination, and the veterinary law examination within the sixty month period immediately following the date of the examination for which conditional credit has been granted. Where the remaining examinations are passed within the specified time, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the examination requirements for licensure.

(c) Where an applicant for licensure as a veterinarian, specified in this section, fails to pass the national veterinarian examination, the California state board examination, and the veterinary law examination within the specified time, the board shall withdraw all conditional examination credit granted during this period and the applicant shall be required to retake and pass all those examinations.

(d) An applicant for licensure as a veterinary technician who has taken the national veterinary technician examination out of state and has achieved a score on such examination at least equal to the score required to pass the national examination under Section 2014.1, shall receive conditional credit for that examination.

(e) Applicants for registration as a veterinary technician receiving conditional examination credit in accordance with this section shall complete the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination within the sixty month period immediately following the date of the examination for which conditional credit has been granted. Where the remaining examinations are passed within the specified time, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the examination requirements for registration.

(f) Where an applicant for registration as a veterinary technician, specified in this section, fails to pass the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination within the specified time, the board shall withdraw all conditional examination credit granted during this period and the applicant shall be required to retake and pass all those examinations.

(g) In lieu of passing the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination within a sixty month period, an applicant for registration as a veterinary technician shall be eligible for the California veterinary technician examination provided such applicant meets the requirements outlined in Section 2068.6.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 135, 4841.1 and 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2068.6. ~~Practical Experience~~-Out of State Registration As Equivalent Curriculum.

~~In lieu of a two-year curriculum in registered veterinary technology, an~~ An applicant shall be eligible for the California registered veterinary technician examination provided such applicant meets the following requirements:

(a) The applicant is licensed, certified, or registered as a veterinary technician in the United States, Canada or U.S. territory in good standing, as defined in Section 4848 (b) (1) (A) and (B) of Business and Professions Code, one or more states in which the board has determined that he or she has ~~taken~~ passed a licensing ~~the national veterinary technician examination(s) or an examination equivalent to the written examination last given~~ required in California ~~and has achieved a score on the examination(s) at least equal to the score required to pass the California examination.~~

(b) The applicant has obtained at least 4,416 hours, completed in no less than 24 months, of directed clinical practice, under the direct supervision of a veterinarian licensed in the United States, Canada or U.S. territory.

(c) The directed clinical practice shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a check list attesting to proficiency in specific skill areas within the preceding categories.

(d) The board determines that no disciplinary action has been taken against the applicant by any public agency concerned with the practice of animal health care and that the applicant has not been the subject of adverse civil or criminal judgments resulting from the practice of animal health care which the board determines constitutes evidence of a pattern of incompetency or negligence.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4841.5 and 4848, Business and Professions Code.

2071. Application, Registration and Renewal Fees for Registered Veterinary Technicians.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4842.5 of the code, the following fees are fixed by the board for licensing periods beginning on or after March 1, 2012:

(a) The application eligibility review fee ~~for the registered veterinary technician examination~~ shall be \$125.00.

(b) The fee for the California registered ~~registered~~ veterinary technician examination shall be \$175.00.

(c) The initial registration fee for registrations issued for one year or more from the date on which it will expire shall be \$140.00. The initial registration fee for registrations issued for less than one year shall be \$70.00.

(d) The biennial renewal fee shall be \$140.00.

(e) The delinquency fee shall be \$25.00.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4842.5, Business and Professions Code.

**Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board**

Initial Statement of Reasons

Hearing Date: 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Veterinary Technician National Examination Transition

Sections Affected: Title 16, Division 20, California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 2002, 2010, 2010.1, 2010.2, 2014, 2014.1, 2015, 2015.1, 2068.6, and 2071

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

1. **Problem being addressed:**

Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 135, 4800, 4841.1, 4841.4, 4841.5, 4842.5, 4846.1, and 4848 establishes the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) shall determine a method of examination for veterinarian and veterinary technician applicants, determine the professional qualifications of those applicants, evaluate those applicants for examination eligibility, and regulate the means by which those applicants are eligible for licensure.

BPC section 4841.4 specifically directs the Board, among other things, to establish that the examination for veterinary technicians shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians. The Board currently administers a single veterinary technician examination that measures knowledge on health care tasks in California.

The Board's Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC) contracted with the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) to evaluate the national veterinary technician examination to determine whether it meets examination standards for California Licensure. OPES determined in their report to the RVTC that California accept the national veterinary technician examination, but only if a supplemental California veterinary technician examination was developed. The RVTC approved OPES's recommendation at their November 16, 2010 meeting and the Board approved the RVTC's recommendation at their January 25, 2011 meeting.

Most states and Canadian provinces use the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) as one component for determining the professional qualifications of veterinary technician applicants for licensure. The Board has not, up to this point, adopted the VTNE as a component for determining the professional qualifications of veterinary technician applicants for licensure. The affected sections of the proposed regulations will adopt the VTNE, as well as an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians, as a component for determining the professional qualifications of veterinary technician applicants in California.

Specifically the proposed language would:

Amend CCR section 2002

The proposed regulation removes reference to the RVTC.

Amend CCR section 2010

The proposed regulation specifies an application for eligibility evaluation includes California veterinary technician examination and that once eligibility is established the applicant is authorized to take both the national veterinary technician examination and the California veterinary technician examination.

Amend CCR section 2010.1

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive clarifying changes to the language.

Adopt CCR section 2010.2

The proposed regulation specifies the Board will solely determine an applicant's eligibility for the VTNE, will notify the applicant and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) upon eligibility determination, and will transfer the applicant's eligibility to the AAVSB or authorized representative.

Amend CCR section 2014

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive clarifying changes to the language.

Adopt CCR section 2014.1

The proposed regulation specifies that the veterinary technician licensing examination will include both the national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians (California registered veterinary technician examination). Every applicant who passes the national licensing examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination by a prescribed pass point is deemed to have passed both veterinary technician examinations.

Amend CCR section 2015

The proposed regulation requires an applicant for the national licensing examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination pass both examinations within a 60-month period immediately following the date the applicant took their first examination in order to meet examination requirements for licensure. If the applicant fails to pass the national licensing examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period the applicant is required to retake and pass both examinations within a subsequent 60-month period.

The proposed regulation also makes non-substantive clarifying changes to the language.

Amend CCR section 2015.1

The proposed language specifies that applicants for veterinary technician licensure who passed the national veterinary technician examination outside of California will receive conditional credit for the examination. Applicants receiving conditional credit are required to pass both the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period immediately following the date of the conditional credit in order to meet examination requirements for licensure. If the applicant fails to pass the national licensing examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period the Board withdraws its conditional credit and applicant is required to retake and pass

both examinations within a subsequent 60-month period.

The proposed language also specifies that applicants for veterinary technician licensure may meet examination requirements for licensure, in lieu of passing both the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period, in accordance with requirements in CCR section 2086.6.

The proposed regulation also makes non-substantive clarifying changes to the language.

Amend CCR section 2068.6

The proposed language specifies that an applicant, licensed in specified jurisdictions, who's license is in good standing, and who has taken the national veterinary technician examination or its equivalent is eligible for the California registered veterinary technician examination (provided the applicant meets all the other requirements in the section).

The proposed regulation also makes non-substantive clarifying changes to the language.

Amend CCR section 2071

The proposed language specifies the fee for the California registered veterinary technician examination.

2. Anticipated benefits from this regulatory action:

The Board currently administers a single veterinary technician examination that focuses on California animal health care tasks. By incorporating the national veterinary technician examination as a prerequisite to eligibility for licensure the Board is formally adopting the national minimum competency standard for veterinary technicians. Then, by creating a separate examination specific to animal health care tasks in California the Board will be more effective testing for all minimum competencies of veterinary technology in California and thereby affording increased protection to the consumer through increased assessment of their knowledge and ability to perform veterinary technician specific job tasks.

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) approves veterinary technician applicants for most licensing jurisdictions. Only those applicants who have graduated from American Veterinary Medical Association accredited schools are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) through the AAVSB approval process. California veterinary technician candidates who apply for examination eligibility through California's "alternate route" (CCR section 2068.5) will be made eligible to take the VTNE. Adopting the VTNE as the single standard for competency provides consumer protection and allows veterinary technicians more licensure mobility from state to state.

Factual Basis/Rationale

Amend CCR section 2002

The proposed regulation removes reference to the RVTC due to its sunset in statute.

Amend CCR section 2010

The proposed regulation adds application requirements for the California veterinary technician examination due to the establishment of BPC section 4841.4 that requires the Board to

administer both a national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination.

Amend CCR section 2010.1

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive changes to the language for clarity and consistency.

Adopt CCR section 2010.2

The proposed regulation creates an eligibility evaluation and conveyance process for the national veterinary technician examination due to the establishment of BPC section 4841.4 that requires the Board to administer both a national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination.

Amend CCR section 2014

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive changes to the language for clarity and consistency.

Adopt CCR section 2014.1

The proposed regulation requires a veterinary technician applicant to take both the national licensing examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination due to the establishment of BPC section 4841.4 that requires the Board to administer both a national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination. The applicant must pass both examinations by a prescribed pass point in order to establish that the passing score has been psychometrically established as defensible to any subsequent challenge and in accordance with common practice in the development of licensure examinations.

Amend CCR section 2015

The proposed regulation requires a veterinary technician applicant to pass both the national licensing examination and the California registered veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period in accordance with common practice in the development of licensure examinations that professional examinations are recreated and examination plans rewritten approximately every five years. Examinations are recreated approximately every five years in order to accurately capture law and real-world practice changes in professions over the course of several years and to insure the examination captures the current minimum qualifications for licensure. The Board has determined a new occupational analysis and examination plan should be undertaken every five to seven years.

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive changes to the language for clarity and consistency.

Amend CCR section 2015.1

The proposed language establishes conditional credit for veterinary technician applicants who pass the national licensing examination outside of California and require the applicant to also pass the California registered veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period in accordance with common practice in the development of licensure examinations that professional examinations are recreated and examination plans rewritten approximately every five years. Examinations are recreated approximately every five years in order to accurately capture law and real-world practice changes in professions over the course of several years and

to insure the examination captures the current minimum qualifications for licensure. The Board has determined a new occupational analysis and examination plan should be undertaken every five to seven years.

The proposed language also establishes CCR section 2086.6 as an alternate eligibility for veterinary technicians in lieu of passing both the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination within a 60-month period for licensure for applicants.

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive changes to the language for clarity and consistency.

Amend CCR section 2068.6

The proposed language specifies a veterinary technician, licensed in another state, may get credit for passing the national veterinary technician examination or its equivalent due to the establishment of BPC section 4841.4 that requires the Board to administer the national veterinary technician examination. The Board determined that applicants should be allowed credit for having passed either the national veterinary technician examination or its equivalent as a result of established regulation not specifying an allowance for national veterinary technician examination credit with the addition of its requirement in statute.

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive changes to the language for clarity and consistency.

Amend CCR section 2071

The proposed language sets the fee for the California registered veterinary technician examination at a fee that is equivalent due to the similarity to the previous registered veterinary technician examination in administration and development costs.

Underlying Data

- Evaluation of the Veterinary Technician National Examination – July 2010
- November 16, 2010 RVTC Meeting Minutes
- November 16, 2010 RVTC Meeting - Attachment 3.B.
- January 25, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses. BPC section 4841.4 directs the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.

Along with other application requirements, veterinary technician candidates are required to have passed the VTNE and California veterinary technician examination prior to licensure and presumed employment by a California business as a registered veterinary technician examination. The Board does not anticipate there will be any change to the number of veterinary technician applicants based on the new examination requirements.

Economic Impact Assessment

This regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

- It will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California because the proposal requires the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.
- It will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California because the proposal requires the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.
- It will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California because the proposal requires the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.
- This regulatory proposal benefits the health and welfare of California residents by requiring California veterinary technician applicants to take the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination the applicants will be assured to have examined on both national and California veterinary technician job tasks required for minimum competency and thereby affording increased protection to the consumer through increased assessment of their knowledge and ability to practice veterinary technician specific job tasks.
- This regulatory proposal benefits the health and welfare of California residents because by requiring California veterinary technician applicants to take the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination the applicants will be assured to have examined on both national and California veterinary technician job tasks required for minimum competency and thereby affording increased protection to the consumer through increased assessment of their knowledge and ability to practice veterinary technician specific job tasks.
- This regulatory proposal benefits worker safety by requiring California veterinary technician applicants to take the national veterinary technician examination and California veterinary technician examination the applicants will be assured to have examined on both national and California veterinary technician job tasks required for minimum competency and thereby affording increased protection to the consumer through increased assessment of their knowledge and ability to practice veterinary technician specific job tasks.
- This regulatory proposal benefits [does not affect] the state's environment because the proposal requires the Board to establish that the veterinary technician examination shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative to the regulatory proposal would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective or less burdensome to affected private persons and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation in a manner that ensures full compliance with the law being implemented or made specific.

BPC section 4841.4 specifically directs the Board to establish that the examination for veterinary technicians shall consist of a national licensing examination and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians.



June 13, 2013

Ethan Mathes
Veterinary Medical Board
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250
Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Mr. Mathes:

Re: Proposed Regulations for VTNE Transition

Our Association has some concerns regarding the proposed language contained in the regulations for the implementation of the transition to the VTNE.

In Section 2010 (b), the proposal states that "If an applicant fails a scheduled examination, the applicant must reapply by submitting to the board required application forms and fees". We believe that a new application and another payment of fees should not be required if a candidate fails one of the exams. By requiring a new application and fees, the regulation imposes hardship on both the VMB staff and the candidate. Staff would have to re-review an application they have already reviewed and approved. The candidate would have to resubmit an application they have already submitted and pay an additional \$125 application fee plus the exam fees – either \$175 for the California exam or the \$300 for the VTNE.

Instead, we recommend that the VMB extend the application eligibility period to include at least 2 test administrations. Once a candidate has been deemed eligible, there is no reason to re-review their application except perhaps for a statement that no new legal issues have arisen. We see this as a win-win. Staff time will be lessened and candidates will save time and a significant amount of money.

We also suggest that the language in Section 2015 (d) and 2015.1 (f) that states "...the applicant shall be required to retake and pass all those examinations" be changed to read "the applicant shall be deemed to have failed to meet the requirements for registration". The language as proposed appears to force a failing candidate to retake the examinations even if they decide not to.

Finally, we have concerns about the proposed fee for the California veterinary technician examination as stated in Section 2071 (b). The fee as stated is \$175. We understand that there may be some initial difficulty due to computer issues in changing the exam fee, but we urge the VMB to include language that reduces this fee to the lowest possible amount. We suggest the language should read: "The fee for the California veterinary technician examination shall be \$175 until June 30, 2014. Thereafter, the fee shall be \$75 (or whatever the lowest amount could be). By putting the lower fee into this regulation, it would be in place without having to go through another regulatory package. CaRVTA is very concerned that by transitioning to the VTNE, the fees for candidates will increase from the current \$300 to \$600, a 100% increase. RVT candidates will find this huge increase to be a significant hardship. Anything that the VMB can do to ameliorate this hardship should be seriously considered.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Regards,
Nancy Ehrlich, RVT
Regulatory/Legislative Liaison, CaRVTA