

**VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD**  
**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:

Sections Affected: 2000, 2010, 2010.1, 2014, 2015, 2015.2, 2017, 2018, 2023 and 2024

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

Amend Section 2000 – Update the Board’s address at its principal place of business.

Amend Section 2010 – Eliminate a fixed examination filing deadline for candidates for the California State Board and Registered Veterinary Technician examinations and update examination application forms consistent with the new testing methods and also to conform to regulations that were effective July 12, 2009 that update the eligibility categories for registered veterinary technician.

Amend Section 2010.1 – Clarify the exam evaluation process and the time within a candidate’s senior year after which they can apply to take the exam.

Repeal Section 2014.5 – Repeal a section that sunsetted in May 2005.

Amend Section 2015 – Clarify the timeframe in which all required examinations must be passed for eligibility for licensure

Amend Section 2015.2 – Add Western University of Pomona as an exempt status school.

Repeal Sections 2017 and 2018 – Repeal regulations to be consistent with state laws that have been repealed.

Amend Section 2020 – Update method of delivery of results to candidates, clarify that the examination itself nor individual items are not subject to review, delete the Board’s old business address, clarify that the appeal is based on the exam as a whole rather than segmented parts.

Amend Section 2023 – Clarify exam eligibility requirements

Amend Section 2024 – Clarify requirements for licensure

Factual Basis/Rationale

Factual basis for determination that each proposed change is necessary:

#### Amend Section 2000

The Board moved its office in March 2008. This amendment updates the Board address at its principal place of business.

#### Amend Section 2010

The Board has converted both of its licensing examinations for registered veterinary technicians and for veterinarians to a computer-based testing system that utilizes an on-demand scheduling system and eliminates the need for a single filing deadline. The regulations are being amended to reflect the current filing requirements for purposes of applying for the examination and to note that the application has been revised to reflect the changes and includes a new revision date.

The Board also last year updated its regulations regarding categories for eligibility for the registered veterinary technician examination and those regulations became effective on July 12, 2009. In this package, the Board is including updated revision dates for the application form consistent with the changes that went into effect in July.

#### Amend Section 2010.1

The Board currently utilizes the services of its national regulatory association, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, to perform application review for candidates wishing to sit for the national veterinary medical examination. The regulations are being amended to reflect this current authority. The Board is also changing the time allowed for senior students to apply for the exam from 6 to 8 months to be consistent with requirements for the national examination in 49 other states.

#### Repeal Section 2014.5

The Board is repealing this section based on the sunset date within the existing regulations of May 2005.

#### Amend Section 2015

The Board is amending this regulation to reflect accurate form numbers, to clarify the timeframe in which all examinations must be passed for a candidate to be eligible for licensure in California and to clarify the retake procedures.

#### Amend Section 2015.2

The Board is amending this section to add Western University of Pomona as an exempt school consistent with authority granted in Business and Professions Code, 4830(a)(5).

#### Repeal Sections 2017 and 2018

The Board is repealing these two sections to be consistent with the repeal of Permit Reform regulations within the Federal Government Code of Regulations.

#### Amend Section 2020

The Board is amending this section to clarify existing law. The Board is deleting its address as redundant and simply referring to its principle office because the address is referred to in Section 2000. The current language states that the results of the examination are mailed to the candidate. With the shift to computer based testing, the results are "given" to the candidate on the same day of the test rather than "mailed." Also, the language permitting review of the examination itself or individual items must be deleted because based on the method used to validate the Board's examinations and the issue of examination security, the examination itself is not subject to review. Subsection (d) outlines the criteria for appeal based on format of the examination, computer grading errors or conditions at the examination site.

In subsection (b), the Board's examination is given as a whole and is not segmented into parts; therefore, the appeal is based on the examination as a whole rather than an individual part.

#### Amend Section 2023

1. The Board is amending this section to clarify and make specific requirements for licensure in California. Extend the eligibility timeframe for senior students from six (6) to eight (8) months to be consistent with a change on the national level that has been adopted by 49 other states,
2. Establishes equivalent eligibility criteria for international candidates, who meet specific equivalency criteria requirements, and
3. Incorporates some of the exam requirements from Section 2024 to clarify and make consistent the exam eligibility requirements for all candidates.

#### Amend Section 2024

The Board is amending this section to:

1. Change the title of the section, and
2. remove some of the examination eligibility criteria for incorporation into Section 2023, and
3. clarify the educational requirements for eligibility for licensure in California.

#### Underlying Data

Technical, theoretical or empirical studies or reports relied upon: Board meeting minutes, July 2009

#### Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

#### Specific Technologies or Equipment

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

#### Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

Set forth below are the alternatives which were considered and the reasons each alternative was rejected:

Alternative 1. Status quo is not a viable alternative because the process of how the California exams are administered has already changed and the regulations need to reflect and be consistent with current procedures.

Alternative 2. The proposed changes are somewhat clerical in nature and are designed to provide more clarity and information to candidates applying for the examination and licensure in California. There is no fiscal impact. The Board recommends adoption of the proposed regulatory changes.