



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 23, 2019
TO	Veterinary Medical Board
FROM	Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 12. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding the Administration of the California Veterinary Technician Examination

Administration of California Registered Technician Examination (CRTE)

A question was posed at the last Board meeting whether the CRTE could be administered and taken by mail or online. Currently, Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 4841.4 requires the Board to examine applicants for veterinary technician registration, and the examination must consist of both a national licensing examination and an examination specific to the animal health care tasks limited to California RVTs.

The Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) previously opined on the administration of a mail-in or online examination. According to OPES, a mail-in exam is more a teaching tool rather than a true examination. In California, examinations to determine professional qualifications are typically required to pass standards for review, which are listed under BPC section 139 and include minimum requirements for psychometrically sound examination validation, examination development, and an occupational analysis to make certain that the examination is still relevant as a profession advances.

Notably, veterinarians must take and pass three examinations: (1) national licensing examination; (2) California state board examination; and (3) Veterinary Medicine Practice Act statutes and regulations examination. (BPC § 4848(a)(2).) Of those three examinations, only the third examination is administered by regular mail, email, or by both regular mail and email. (BPC § 4848(a)(2)(C).)

Should the Board decide that the CRTE should be administered by mail or online, it will likely need to recommend to the Legislature an amendment to BPC section 4841.4 to provide for mail or online administration of the CRTE.

Cost to Take California Registered Veterinary Technician Examination

BPC section 4842.5 provides that the fee for the California registered veterinary technician examination shall be set by the Board in an amount it determines is reasonably necessary to provide sufficient funds to carry out the registration and enforcement of RVTs, not to exceed

\$300.00. The current fee to take the exam is \$175, which was found in the last Board audit, dated July 2017, to be less than the total cost of the exam, \$232 (see https://www.vmb.ca.gov/licensees/fees_2.pdf, p. 13).

Additional Research

Board staff is researching which states administer supplemental practical examinations and the method for delivery. Any additional information received will be provided at the meeting.