



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

the Assembly on May 29 and is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its April 5 meeting, the Board unanimously voted to sponsor legislation to require Branch 4 licensees to identify wood-destroying pests in wood shake and shingle roofs, issue certifications, and perform reinspections; the legislation would also require Branch 4 licensees to recommend that treatment be performed by a Branch 3 licensee.

Also on April 5, SPCB unanimously adopted Policy No. L-6, Continuing Education Exemptions for Armed Services Personnel, which provides that "[a]ny licensee who permitted his/her license to expire while serving in any branch of the armed services of the United States during Operation Desert Storm may have one year from the date of discharge from the armed services or return to inactive status to earn the required continuing education points necessary to reinstate his/her license; provided the license was valid at the time the licensee entered the armed services, and the application for reinstatement is accompanied by an affidavit showing the date of discharge from the armed services or return to active status."

FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 4-5 in San Francisco.

TAX PREPARER PROGRAM

Administrator: Jacqueline Bradford
(916) 324-4977

Enacted in 1973, abolished in 1982, and reenacted by SB 1453 (Presley) effective January 31, 1983, the Tax Preparer Program registers approximately 19,000 commercial tax preparers and 6,000 tax interviewers in California, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9891 *et seq.* The Program's regulations are codified in Division 32, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Registrants must be at least eighteen years old, have a high school diploma or pass an equivalency exam, have completed sixty hours of instruction in basic personal income tax law, theory and practice within the previous eighteen months, or have at least two years' experience equivalent to that instruction. Twenty hours of continuing education are required each year.

Prior to registration, tax preparers must deposit a bond or cash in the amount of \$2,000 with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Registration must

be renewed annually, and a tax preparer who does not renew his/her registration within three years after expiration must obtain a new registration. The initial registration fee is \$50 and the renewal fee is \$40.

Members of the State Bar of California, accountants regulated by the state or federal government, and those authorized to practice before the Internal Revenue Service are exempt from registration.

An Administrator, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, enforces the provisions of the Tax Preparer Act. He/she is assisted by a nine-member State Preparer Advisory Committee which consists of three registrants, three persons exempt from registration, and three public members. All members are appointed to four-year terms.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Governor Names New Administrator. On May 2, Governor Pete Wilson announced the appointment of Jacqueline Bradford as the new Administrator of the Tax Preparer Program. Bradford, who previously served in the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency as Executive Development Program Manager, will receive an annual salary of \$55,208.

Program Moves to New Offices. The Tax Preparer Program recently announced its relocation to new offices at 400 R Street, Suite 3140, Sacramento, CA 95814.

RECENT MEETINGS:

The Advisory Committee has not met since December 13, 1988; the Program has been functioning without the Committee since the terms of all Committee members expired on December 31, 1988.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Executive Officer: Gary K. Hill
(916) 920-7662

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4800 *et seq.*, the Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine (BEVM) licenses all veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, animal health facilities, and animal health technicians (AHTs). The Board evaluates applicants for veterinary licenses through three written examinations: the National Board Examination, the Clinical Compe-

tency Test, and the California Practical Examination.

The Board determines through its regulatory power the degree of discretion that veterinarians, AHTs, and unregistered assistants have in administering animal health care. BEVM's regulations are codified in Division 20, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). All veterinary medical, surgical, and dental facilities must be registered with the Board and must conform to minimum standards. These facilities may be inspected at any time, and their registration is subject to revocation or suspension if, following a proper hearing, a facility is deemed to have fallen short of these standards.

The Board is comprised of six members, including two public members. The Board has eleven committees which focus on the following BEVM functions: continuing education, citations and fines, inspection program, legend drugs, minimum standards, examinations, administration, enforcement review, peer review, public relations, and legislation. The Board's Animal Health Technician Examining Committee (AHTEC) consists of the following political appointees: three licensed veterinarians, three AHTs, and two public members.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

AB 334 Defeat Results in "Dog-gyscam" Investigation. The controversy over animal teeth cleaning—which has pitted veterinarians against pet groomers for over three years—has taken a new twist which may result in bribery indictments.

After prolonged debate beginning in January 1988, BEVM adopted a rule in October 1988 defining the term "dental operation" to include animal teeth cleaning with motorized instruments. An animal "dental operation" may be performed only by a veterinarian or a vet-supervised AHT; thus, pet groomers are prevented from providing this service. However, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) rejected the rule in March 1989, on grounds that vet fees for teeth cleaning are considerably higher than groomers' fees for the same service. After the Board was unable to overrule the DCA Director, it initiated a new rulemaking process and readopted the rule at its November 1989 meeting. The DCA Director neither approved nor rejected the rule, so it was forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), which approved it in April 1990. However, that year, Assemblymember Bruce Bronzan carried a bill expressly permitting non-vets to perform animal teeth