

Government Relations Report
September 2015

The legislature is back from summer recess and has taken the following action:

*AB 178 passed in the Senate Appropriations on Aug 27 (7-0); it will be heard on 8/31 in the Senate. **The language regarding the immediate moratorium on the Practical Exam has been removed.**

*AB 179 passed in the Senate Appropriations on Aug 27 (6-1); it was then heard on 8/31 for the second reading in the Senate and ordered to the third reading, which took place on September 4, where it was amended. It will next be read on September 8 in Senate.

This bill includes extends the Dental Board' sunset until 2020; requires licentiates to report email addresses no later than July 2016; suspends the Practical Exam until January 2017 and requires the DBC to conduct a review to determine whether a practical exam is necessary to demonstrate competency of RDAs and if so, how the exam should be developed and administered. It is likely that the November Practical Exam will take place and those thereafter will be suspended.

At the August Dental Board meeting, the following items of interest to dental assisting were discussed:

1. The Dental Board met in conjunction with the Dental Assisting Council in an effort to afford better communication and support.
2. There have been multiple staff departures, affecting the work on the pending regulatory packages, specifically the educational programs and course requirements. We are hopeful that this will be scheduled soon.
3. Occupational Analysis in underway. If you are interested in participating, there are still two workshops to be held, both in December with a deadline of November 20 to **apply** (link to: http://www.dbc.ca.gov/formspubs/rda_sme20150520.pdf).
4. The Dental Board is evaluating a fee increase for licentiates and applicants. Proposed fees include an increase for RDA Application from \$80 to \$172. RDA and RDAEF renewals will increase only slightly.
5. There are NO additional sites for the Practical Exams in 2016, despite multiple requests over the past few years.
6. The Board is considering the request to allow RDAEF Programs administer the exam at the classroom site on the last day of the course.
7. There was a breach in the Law & Ethics Exam in June 2015, which caused a suspension for two weeks. A new exam is up.
8. The Dental Board is transitioning to the use of the BreZE program (a software program). It was stated that this transition will take place at the first of the year (Jan 6) and that if any licentiate is going to be renewing at the end of this year, that they should get it sent in early so as not to get caught in the transition.
9. **Did you know??** When you renew your license, the Dental Board uses 80 cents of every dollar on enforcement issues. The Board has received about 500 more complaints this year over previous years (which were approximately 3500-4000). Are your dollars well spent? Let us **know** . . . (<http://www.cdaaweb.org/about/contact-us/>)