

Good Morning:

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding the suspension of the RDA practical examination. As you know, the Board's action to suspend the practical examination can only remain in effect until July 1, 2017 and is then reinstated as a requirement for RDA licensure, pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 1752.1. As such, staff sought an author to carry urgency legislation that would continue the suspension until January 1, 2020, or until the Board determines an alternative way to measure competency, whichever occurs first.

At this time we have been advised that AB 1707 will be the new vehicle (rather than the previously identified AB 1732) that will carry the necessary proposed provisions to extend the practical examination suspension. We have been notified that the Board does not have the authority to issue RDA licenses until the proposed legislation is enacted into law and becomes effective. We were also advised that the necessary legislation will not be effective by July 1, 2017. At this time, we do not have an estimate to the length of time we will be unable to issue RDA licenses.

The following statement has been posted on the Board's web site and sent electronically through email. Your assistance in sharing this statement with the members of your organization would be greatly appreciated. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you again for your support and assistance through this process.

ANTICIPATED DELAY OF ISSUANCE OF REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT (RDA) LICENSURE ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2017

On April 6, 2017, the Dental Board of California (Board) held a special meeting to discuss the findings of the review of the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) practical examination conducted by the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). After reviewing the findings of the report, the Board voted to suspend the administration of the RDA practical examination effective immediately and until July 1, 2017. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 1752.1, the suspension of the practical examination can only remain in effect until July 1, 2017. After this date the exam is reinstated as a requirement for RDA licensure.

The Board sought an author to carry urgency legislation that will continue the suspension from July 1, 2017 until January 1, 2020, at which date the practical examination or an alternative means of measuring competency would be implemented. The Board has been advised that Assembly Bill (AB) 1707 will be the vehicle that will carry the provisions to extend the suspension date so that the Board may continue licensing qualified RDA applicants until an exam or an alternative is identified and implemented. If the bill is signed by Governor Brown as urgency legislation, it will become effective immediately. The last day for the Governor to sign legislation is

October 15. If the bill is not designated as urgency legislation and the Governor signs it, the law would become effective on January 1, 2018.

The Board has been advised that the necessary legislation to extend the suspension of the practical examination will not be effective by July 1, 2017. This means that the board cannot legally issue RDA licenses until the legislation is enacted into law and becomes effective.

The legislative calendar provides the various deadlines for bills to pass out of the legislature and to be signed by the Governor, however the legislative process is complex and subject to variation. Although the Board is doing everything within its power to facilitate this legislation we are unable to provide a date certain by which we will again be able to issue RDA licenses.

The Board encourages applicants for RDA licensure to continue to submit their applications to the Board. Applicants who submit complete applications will be issued eligibility to take the RDA Written Examination and the RDA Law & Ethics Examination. Once the effective date of the practical examination suspension is extended, the Board will resume issuing RDA licenses to applicants who have not taken the practical examination, so long as that applicant meets all other requirements for licensure.

We regret that there will be a delay in RDA licensure and we hope to keep the delay to a minimum. The Board will continue to do all it can to expedite AB 1707 through the legislative process and on to the Governor.

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