

ALERT – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY – GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA TO LICENSE REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANTS (RDAS) DURING SUSPENSION OF THE RDA PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

Assembly Bill 1707 (Chapter 174, Statutes of 2017) authored by Assembly Member Low was signed by Governor Brown and became effective on August 7, 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 at that time, the suspension of the practical examination could only remain in effect until July 1, 2017. After this date, the exam would have been reinstated as a requirement for RDA licensure.

Between April 6 and July 1, 2017, the Board licensed registered dental assistant candidates who had completed all other licensing requirements except passage of the practical exam. Also during this time, the Board sought an author to carry urgency legislation that would continue the suspension of the examination from July 1, 2017 until January 1, 2020, at which time a practical examination or an alternative means of measuring competency would be implemented. This legislation, Assembly Bill 1707 (Chapter 174) authored by Assembly Member Low was signed by Governor Brown and became effective on August 8, 2017.

The Board will resume licensing applicants who have met all other requirements of licensure except passage of the practical examination, including successful completion of the RDA Written Examination and the RDA Law & Ethics Examination. The Board encourages applicants for RDA licensure to submit 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.

As a result of the suspension of the RDA practical examination, the Board anticipates an increase in the number of phone, email, and mail inquires relating to RDA licensure. Please note that such inquiries may take 4-5 business days for response. Please check the Board's web site daily for updated information. Additionally, the Board encourages all interested parties to subscribe to Board email notifications at: <https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/dbc/subscribe.php>