

Report of the Meeting of the Dental Board of California February 23-24, 2012

**Prepared for the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
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The Dental Board of California met November 7-8, 2011, in Studio City. The following report summarizes actions and issues coming before the Board pertinent to pediatric oral health

Licensing Fees

For the past decade, the Dental Board's expenditures at just under \$8 million have been roughly equivalent to revenue generated from licensing and other fees. Last year, as part of a statewide initiative to improve the enforcement capabilities of state licensing boards and bureaus, the Dental Board was mandated to add additional investigators at an annual cost of approximately \$1.2 million. While the Board can absorb this added cost for the next two fiscal years through repayment of outstanding General Fund loans payable to the Board, a deficit would begin to occur in FY 2013-2014. As a result, the Board anticipates a biannual dental licensing fee increase of approximately \$40.00 beginning in 2014, with comparable proportionate increases in other licensing and permit costs.

***Comment:** State law precludes the use of general funds to support the licensing boards and bureaus of the Department of Consumer Affairs. Under the general assumption presented at the meeting, this would increase the biannual re-licensure fee from \$365 to \$405. A specific proposal for the necessary regulatory change to effect licensing fee increases will come forward at the next meeting of the Board in May.*

Board Position on SB 694 (Padilla)

As part of the Board's regular monitoring of bills before the state legislature which would affect its operations or its mission of public protection, the Legislative and Regulatory Committee considered SB 694 (Padilla), which would establish a State Office of Oral Health and authorize that office to design and implement a university-based study to assess the safety, quality, cost-effectiveness, and patient satisfaction of expanded dental procedures. After consideration of the bill and public testimony both support and opposition, the committee voted to recommend the Board maintain a "watch" position. The next day, the full Board voted unanimously to accept the committee's recommendation.

***Comment:** Following the vote, the Board debated a separate motion to submit a letter to the bill's author recommending the bill be amended to specify (1) that no state special funds could be utilized to fund either the proposed State Office of Oral Health or the research study and (2) the research study be prioritized to emphasize maximizing the capabilities of the existing dental workforce to increase oral health access in the state. The motion failed by a 6-6 vote to gain the majority necessary for passage.*