



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NURSE LICENSING FEES SCHEDULED TO INCREASE APRIL 5

Board of Registered Nursing to begin enforcing minimum fees from 2017 legislation

March 29, 2018 – The Board of Registered Nursing voted today to increase application and renewal fees as required by a law that took effect last year. Senate Bill 1039 (Hill, 2016) required that the board set license application and renewal fees within a statutory range, but not lower than a minimum allowed fee. The board voted to set the licensure and renewal application fees at the minimum required fee, unless a fee contained within the board's regulations is already within the statutory fee range. This fee change is scheduled to take effect April 5, 2018.

The bill was a result of an audit that the board underwent to determine whether the board was charging appropriate fees to conduct its business at an adequate service level to provide public protection. The audit found that the board had not been charging enough fees for many areas and has not been collecting enough fees to support increased enforcement efforts.

"These fee increases will allow the board to invest in additional resources to improve the board's functions," said the board's Executive Officer Dr. Joseph Morris. "We look forward to investing in staff and new technology to improve our customer service, community outreach, and consumer protection."

Legislative analysis of the 2017 legislation projected the board would collect \$23 million per year with the new fee structure. These monies will be used to support and improve many of the board's services including but not limited to: the call center, cashiering, license renewals, licensee support, initial licensing, administrative support, legislation, contracting, social media and public records act requests.

In 2010, the board increased its fees for the first time in nearly 20 years to support the board and enhance its enforcement functions. Fees were increased to the then-maximum limit in 2015, as approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

For more information on the fee increase visit the board's website at www.rn.ca.gov.

ABOUT BRN: The Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) is a state governmental agency established by law to protect the public by regulating the practice of registered nurses. The BRN is responsible for implementation and enforcement of the Nursing Practice Act: the laws related to nursing education, licensure, practice, and discipline. The Nursing Practice Act created a nine-member Board which serves as the BRN decision-making body. Learn more at www.rn.ca.gov.

ABOUT DCA: The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) promotes and protects the interests of California consumers. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by contacting DCA at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.dca.ca.gov.