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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

June 6, 2000

Original: 1959, 1952, 2114, 2112, 2115

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman McGinley:

I am writing to inform you that the House Professional Licensure Committee held a meeting on June 6, 2000, and voted to approve Regulation 16A-464 and Regulation 16A-5110. The Committee took no formal action on Regulation 16A-558 and Regulation 16A-579 until final form regulations are promulgated.

In addition, the Committee voted to take no formal action on Regulation 16A-415 until final form regulations are promulgated. However, the Committee notes an apparent error in the Board's statement that the fee increase will be effective for the 1999-2001 biennial period. Renewal fees for that period have already been collected. The new fee could not be collected until the 2001-2003 biennial period.

Please feel free to contact my office if any questions should arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mario J. Civera".

Mario J. Civera, Chairman
House Professional Licensure Committee

MJC/sms
Enclosures

cc: Norbert O. Gannon, D.D.S., Chairman
State Board of Dentistry
K. Stephen Anderson, CRNA, Chairman
State Board of Nursing
Thomas J. Baumgartner, CPA, Chairman
State Board of Accountancy
Brian V. Harpster, V.M.D., Chairman
State Board of Veterinary Medicine
Frank M. Adams, President
State Architects Licensure Board
Honorable Kim H. Pizzingrilli, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Department of State

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COCHAIRMAN EMERITUS

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Regulation 16A-464

State Board of Dentistry

PROPOSAL: Regulation 16A-464 amends 49 PA Code, State Board of Dentistry, to provide for continuing education (CE). The regulation is submitted as Final Rulemaking and was delivered to the House Professional Licensure Committee on May 23, 2000. The Committee has until June 12, 2000, to approve or disapprove the regulation.

ANALYSIS: The Dental Law was amended in 1996 to require as a condition for biennial renewal, that dentists, dental hygienists and expanded function dental assistants complete continuing education credits. Dentists must complete 30 hours of CE, dental hygienists must complete 20 hours of CE, and expanded function dental hygienists must complete 10 hours of CE. Additionally, licensees and certificate holders shall maintain certification in infant, child and adult CPR by taking courses substantially similar in content to those offered by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. The CE requirements must be complied with for the April 1, 2001, renewal period.

The regulation lists examples of continuing education subject areas. Subject areas must contribute directly to the maintenance of clinical competence. No credit will be awarded in non-clinical subjects including billing and office management.

The regulation lists the pre-approved sponsors which include accredited schools and professional associations. Program sponsors are responsible for maintaining accurate attendance records and written outlines for five years. The Board may withdraw the approval of a program sponsor for cause following notice and hearing.

Applicants must provide a copy of documentation of completion of CE requirements when requested to do so by the Board. Licensees must retain documentation for four years after completion of the program.

At least 50% of the required credit hours shall be taken in lecture or clinical presentations. A maximum of 50% of the required credit hours may be taken through individual study, or serving as an instructor or author of a book, article or continuing education program.

An applicant shall be exempt from continuing education requirements for only the biennial period during which the applicant passed the licensure or certification examination. The Board will review on a case-by-case basis requests for waivers for the CE requirement due to illness, emergency or hardship.

At the recommendation of the Committee, the Board amended the definition of "program sponsor" to clarify that it is the program sponsor that is approved by the board and not the continuing education course. Also at the Committee's recommendation, the Board

clarified that CE credits must be obtained prior to the 2001-2003 biennial renewal. Finally, at the Committee's recommendation, CE program sponsors will be required to maintain attendance records for four years, rather than five, to be in conformity with the four year documentation requirement for program applicants.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended the House Professional Licensure Committee approve the regulation.

House of Representatives
Professional Licensure Committee
June 1, 2000