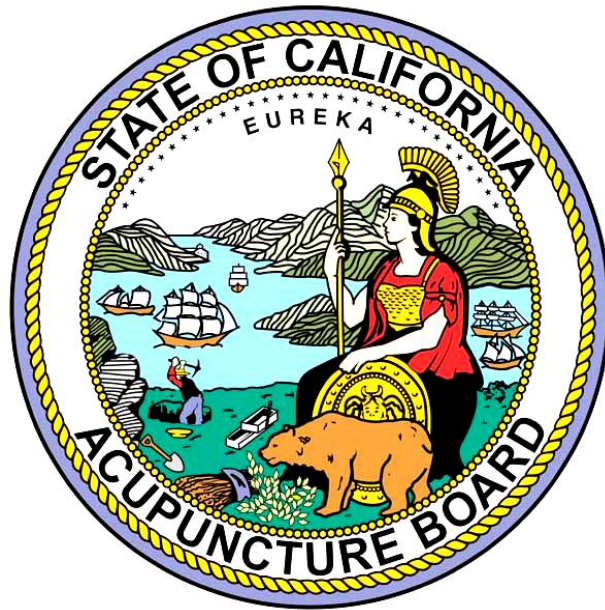


State of California

**California Acupuncture Board
Board Member
Administrative Manual**

Adopted October 25, 2013



Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California

Members of the Board

Michael Shi, L.Ac, Licensed Member – Chair
Kitman Chan, Public Member – Vice Chair
Hildegarde Aguinaldo, J.D. – Public Member
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Jeannie Kang, L.Ac, Licensed Member
Jamie Zamora – Public Member

Executive Officer

Terri Thorfinnson, J.D.

This procedure manual is a general reference including a review of some important laws, regulations, and basic Board policies in order to guide the actions of the Board members and ensure Board effectiveness and efficiency.

This Administrative Procedure Manual, regarding Board Policy, can be amended by a majority of affirmative votes of any current or future Board.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. Introduction	Page
Mission Statement.....	5
Brief History.....	5
Function of the Board.....	6
State of California Acronyms.....	6
General Rules of Conduct.....	6
CHAPTER 2. Board Members and Meeting Procedures	
Membership.....	8
Board Meetings.....	8
Quorum.....	8
Board Member Attendance at Board Meetings.....	8
Public Attendance at Board Meetings.....	9
Agenda Items.....	9
Notice of Meetings.....	9
Notice of Meetings Posted on the Internet.....	9
Mail Ballots.....	9
Holding Disciplinary Cases for Board Meetings.....	10
Record of Meetings.....	10
Tape Recording.....	10
Meeting Rules.....	11
Public Comment.....	11
CHAPTER 3. Travel & Salary Policies & Procedures	
Travel Approval.....	12
Travel Arrangements.....	12
Out-of-State Travel.....	12
Travel Claims.....	12
Salary Per Diem.....	12
CHAPTER 4. Selection of Officers and Committees	
Officers of the Board.....	14
Election of Officers.....	14
Officer Vacancies.....	14
Board Member Addresses.....	14
Board Member Written Correspondence.....	14
Communications: Other Organizations/Individuals/Media.....	14
Committee Appointments.....	14
Committee Meetings.....	15
Attendance at Committee Meetings.....	15

CHAPTER 5. Board Administration and Staff

Executive Officer16
Board Administration16
Executive Officer Evaluation16
Board Staff16
Board Budget16
Communication with Organizations & Individuals.....17
Business Cards17

CHAPTER 6. Other Policies & Procedures

Board Member Disciplinary Actions.....18
Terms and Removal of Board Members.....18
Resignation of Board Members18
Conflict of Interest19
Contact with Licensees and Applicants19
Contact with Respondents19
Service of Legal Documents19
Serving as an Expert Witness19
Gifts from Licensees and Applicants20
Ex Parte Communications20
The Honoraria Prohibition21
Board member Orientation21
Ethics Training21
Sexual Harassment.....21

CHAPTER 1. Introduction

Mission Statement

To protect, benefit, and inform the people of California by exercising the licensing, regulatory, and enforcement mandates of the Acupuncture Licensure Act and Acupuncture Regulations.

Brief History

The Board of Medical Examiners (now called the Medical Board of California) began regulating acupuncture in 1972 under provisions that authorized the practice of acupuncture under the supervision of a licensed physician as part of acupuncture research in medical schools. Subsequently, the law was amended to allow acupuncture research to be conducted under the auspices of medical schools rather than just in medical schools.

In 1975, Senate Bill 86 (Chapter 267, Statutes of 1975) created the Acupuncture Advisory Committee (committee) under the Board of Medical Examiners and allowed the practice of acupuncture but only upon prior diagnosis or referral by a licensed physician, chiropractor or dentist. In 1976 California became the eighth state to license acupuncturists. Subsequent legislation in 1978 established acupuncture as a "primary health care profession" by eliminating the requirement for prior diagnosis or referral by a licensed physician, chiropractor or dentist; and Assembly Bill 2424 (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1978) authorized MediCal payments for acupuncture treatment.

In 1980 the law was amended to: abolish the Acupuncture Advisory Committee and replace it with the Acupuncture Examining Committee within the Division of Allied Health Professions with limited autonomous authority; expanded the acupuncturists' scope of practice to include electroacupuncture, cupping, and moxibustion; clarified that Asian massage, exercise and herbs for nutrition were within the acupuncturist's authorized scope of practice; and provided that fees be deposited in the Acupuncture Examining Committee Fund instead of the Medical Board's fund. Most of these statutory changes became effective on January 1, 1982.

In 1982, the Legislature designated the Acupuncture Examining Committee as an autonomous body, and effective January 1, 1990, through AB 2367 (Chapter 1249, Statutes of 1989) the name was changed to the Acupuncture Committee to better identify it as a state licensing entity for acupuncturists. On January 1, 1999, the committee's name was changed to the Acupuncture Board (SB 1980, Chapter 991, Statutes of 1998) and removed the Committee from within the jurisdiction of the Medical Board of California (SB 1981, Chapter 736, Statutes of 1998).

Function of the Board

The Acupuncture Board's (Board) legal mandate is to regulate the practice of acupuncture and Asian medicine in the State of California. The Board established and maintains entry standards of qualification and conduct within the acupuncture profession, primarily through its authority to license. The Acupuncture Licensure Act commences with Business and Professions (B&P) Code, Section 4925 et seq. The Board's regulations appear in Title 16, Division 13.7, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The primary responsibility of the Acupuncture Board is to protect California consumers from incompetent, and/or fraudulent practice through the enforcement of the Acupuncture Licensure Act and the Board's regulations. The Board promotes safe practice through the improvement of educational training standards, continuing education, enforcement of the B&P Code, and public outreach.

State of California Acronyms

ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
AG	Office of the Attorney General
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
B & P	Business and Professions Code
CCCP	California Code of Civil Procedure
CCR	California Code of Regulations
DAG	Deputy Attorney General
DOF	Department of Finance
DOI	Division of Investigation
DPA	Department of Personnel Administration
OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings
OAL	Office of Administrative Law
SAM	State Administrative Manual
SCIF	State Compensation Insurance Fund
SCO	State Controllers Office
SCSA	State and Consumer Services Agency
SPB	State Personnel Board

General Rules of Conduct

All Board Members shall act in accordance with their oath of office, and shall conduct themselves in a courteous, professional and ethical manner at all times. The Board serves at the pleasure of the governor, and shall conduct their business in an open manner, so that the public that they serve shall be both informed and involved, consistent with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and all other governmental and civil codes applicable to similar boards within the State of California.

BOARD MEMBER ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE MANUAL

- ❖ Board members shall comply with all provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- ❖ Board members shall not speak or act for the Board without proper authorization.
- ❖ Board members shall not privately or publicly lobby for or publicly endorse, or otherwise engage in any personal efforts that would tend to promote their own personal or political views or goals, when those are in direct opposition to an official position adopted by the Board.
- ❖ Board members shall not discuss personnel or enforcement matters outside of their official capacity in properly noticed and agendized meetings or with members of the public or the profession.
- ❖ Board members shall never accept gifts from applicants, licensees, or members of the profession while serving on the Board.
- ❖ Board members shall maintain the confidentiality of confidential documents and information related to board business.
- ❖ Board members shall commit the time and prepare for Board responsibilities including the reviewing of board meeting notes, administrative cases to be reviewed and discussed, and the review of any other materials provided to the board members by staff, which is related to official board business.
- ❖ Board members shall recognize the equal role and responsibilities of all Board members.
- ❖ Board members shall act fairly, be nonpartisan, impartial, and unbiased in their roles of protecting the public and enforcing the Acupuncture Licensure Act.
- ❖ Board members shall treat all consumers, applicants and licensees in a fair, professional, courteous and impartial manner.
- ❖ Board members' actions shall serve to uphold the principle that the Board's primary mission is to protect the public.
- ❖ Board members shall not use their positions on the Board for personal, familial, or financial gain. Any employment subsequent to employment as a board member shall be consistent with Executive Order 66-2.

CHAPTER 2. Board Members & Meeting Procedures

Membership

(B & P Code Section 4929)

The Board consists of seven members. Three members are licensed acupuncturists and four are public members. The Governor appoints the three licensed members and two public members. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint one public member. All members appointed by the Governor are subject to Senate confirmation. The members serve a four-year term for a maximum of two terms.

Board Meetings

(B & P Code Section 101.7)

(Government Code Section 11120 et seq. – Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act)

The full board shall meet at least three times each calendar year. The Board shall meet at least once each calendar year in northern California and at least once each calendar year in southern California in order to facilitate participation by the public and its licensees.

The board, as a statement of policy, shall comply with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and conduct their business in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, as long as that does not conflict with any superseding laws or regulations.

Due notice of each meeting and the time and place thereof must be given to each member in the manner provided by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

The Board may call a special meeting at any time in the manner provided by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Government Code Section 11125.4.

Quorum

(Business and Professions Code Section 4933)

Four members of the board, including at least one acupuncturist, shall constitute a quorum to conduct business. An affirmative vote of a majority of those present at a meeting of the board is required to carry any motion.

Board Member Attendance at Board Meetings

(Board Policy)

Being a member of the Board is a serious commitment to the governor and the people of the State of California. Board members shall attend a minimum of 75% of all scheduled board meetings. If a member is unable to attend, he or she must contact the Board Chair or the Executive Officer, and provide a written explanation of their absence.

Public Attendance at Board Meetings

(Government Code Section 11120 et seq.)

Meetings are subject to all provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. This Act governs meetings of the state regulatory Boards and meetings of committees of those Boards where committee consists of more than two members. It specifies meeting notice, agenda requirements, and prohibits discussing or taking action on matters not included on the agenda. If the agenda contains matters which are appropriate for closed session, the agenda shall cite the particular statutory section and subdivision authorizing the closed session.

Agenda Items

(Board Policy)

Board members may submit agenda items for a future Board meeting during the "Future Agenda Items" section of a Board meeting or directly to the Board Chair 15 days prior to a Board meeting. To the extent possible, the Board Chair will calendar each Board member's request on a future Board meeting.

In the event of a conflict, the Board Chair shall make the final decision. The Board Chair will work with the Executive Officer to finalize the agenda.

If a Board member requests an item be placed on the agenda, and that request can not be complied with at the immediate upcoming meeting, then the requested agenda item shall be placed on the next regularly scheduled meeting and shall never be postponed more than two meetings.

Notice of Meetings

(Government Code Section 11120 et seq.,)

Meeting notices, including agendas, for Board meetings will be sent to persons on the Board's mailing list at least 10 calendar days in advance, as specified in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The notice shall include a staff person's name, work address, and work telephone number who can provide further information prior to the meeting.

Notice of Meetings Posted on the Internet

(Government Code Section 11125 et seq.,)

Meeting notices shall be posted on the Board's web site at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, and include the name, address, and telephone number of staff who can provide further information prior to the meeting

Mail Ballots

(Government Code Section 11500 et seq.,)

The Board must approve any proposed decision or stipulation before the formal discipline becomes final and the penalty can take effect.

Proposed stipulations and decisions are mailed to each Board member for his or her vote. For stipulations, a background memorandum from the assigned deputy attorney general accompanies the mail ballot. A five calendar day deadline generally is given for the mail ballots for stipulations and proposed decisions to be completed and returned to the Board's office.

Holding Disciplinary Cases for Board Meetings

(Board Policy)

When voting on mail ballots for proposed disciplinary decisions or stipulations, a Board member may wish to discuss a particular aspect of the decision or stipulation before voting. If this is the case, the ballot must be marked "hold for discussion," and the reason for the hold must be provided on the mail ballot. This allows staff the opportunity to prepare information being requested.

If two votes are cast to hold a case for discussion, the case is set aside and not processed (even if four votes have been cast on a decision). Instead the case is scheduled for a discussion during a closed session at the next Board meeting.

If the matter is held for discussion, staff counsel will preside over the closed session to assure compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act and Open Meeting Act.

Record of Meetings

(Board Policy)

The minutes are a summary, not a transcript, of each Board meeting. They shall be prepared by Board staff and submitted for review by Board members before the next Board meeting.

Board minutes must be approved or disapproved at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. When approved, the minutes shall serve as the official record of the meeting. The recordings of each board meeting shall be maintained and not destroyed.

Tape Recording

(Government Code Section 11124.1(b))

The meeting may be audio and video tape recorded by the public or any other entity in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the members of the public may tape record, videotape or otherwise record a meeting unless they are disruptive to the meeting and the Chair has specifically warned them of their being disruptive, then the Chair may order that their activities be ceased.

The board may place the audio recorded public board meetings on its web site at www.acupuncture.ca.gov.

Meeting Rules

(Board Policy)

The Board will use Robert's Rules of Order, to the extent that it does not conflict with state law (e.g., Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act or other state laws or regulations), as a guide when conducting the meetings. Questions of order are clarified by the Board's legal counsel.

Public Comment

(Board Policy)

Public comment is always encouraged and allowed, however, if time constraints mandate, the comments may be limited to five minutes per person. Due to the need for the Board to maintain fairness and neutrality when performing its adjudicative function, the Board shall not receive any information from a member of the public regarding matters that are currently under or subject to investigation, or involve a pending or criminal administrative action.

1. If, during a Board meeting, a person attempts to provide the Board with any information regarding matters that are currently under or subject to investigation or involve a pending administrative or criminal action, the person shall be advised that the Board cannot properly consider or hear such substantive information and the person must be instructed to refrain from making such comments.
2. If, during a Board meeting, a person wishes to address the Board concerning alleged errors of procedure or protocol or staff misconduct involving matters that are currently under or subject to investigation or involve a pending administrative or criminal action, the Board will address the matter as follows:
 - a. Where the allegation involves errors of procedure or protocol, the Board may designate its Executive Officer to review whether the proper procedure or protocol was followed and to report back to the Board.
 - b. Where the allegation involves significant staff misconduct, the Board may designate one of its members to review the allegation and to report back to the Board.
3. The Board may deny a person the right to address the Board and have the person removed if such person becomes disruptive at the Board meeting. The Board accepts the conditions established in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and appreciates that at times the public may disapprove, reprimand, or otherwise present an emotional presentation to the Board, and it is the Board's duty and obligation to allow that public comment, as provided by law.

CHAPTER 3. Travel & Salary Policies & Procedures

Travel Approval

(Board Policy)

Board members shall receive Executive Officer approval for all travel and salary or per diem reimbursement, except for regularly scheduled Board, committee, and conference meetings to which a Board member is assigned.

Travel Arrangements

(Board Policy)

Board members should attempt to make their own travel arrangements and are encouraged to coordinate with the Board liaison on lodging accommodations.

Out-of-State Travel

(SAM Section 700 et seq.)

Out-of-state travel for all persons representing the state of California is controlled and must be approved by the Governor's Office.

Travel Claims

(SAM Section 700 et seq.)

Rules governing reimbursement of travel expenses for Board members are the same as for management-level state staff. All expenses shall be claimed on the appropriate travel expense claim forms. The Board Liaison maintains these forms and completes them as needed.

The Executive Officer's travel and per diem reimbursement claims shall be submitted to the Board Chair for approval.

It is advisable for Board members to submit their travel expense forms immediately after returning from a trip and not later than thirty days following the trip.

Salary Per Diem

(B & P Code Section 103 and 4931)

Each member of the Board shall receive a per diem in the amount provided in Section 103 of the Business and Professions (B&P) Code. Board members fill non-salaried positions, but are paid \$100 per day for each meeting day and are reimbursed travel expenses.

Compensation in the form of salary per diem and reimbursement of travel and other related expenses for Board members is regulated by the B&P Code Section 103. In relevant part, B&P Code Section 103 provides for the payment of salary per diem for Board members "for each day actually spent in the discharge of official duties," and provides that the Board member "shall be reimbursed for traveling and other expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of official duties."

Salary Per Diem
(Board Policy)

Accordingly, the following general guidelines shall be adhered to in the payment of salary per diem or reimbursement for travel:

1. No salary per diem or reimbursement for travel-related expenses shall be paid to Board members except for attendance at official Board or committee meetings, unless a substantial official service is performed by the Board member.

Attendance at gatherings, events, hearings, conferences or meetings other than official Board or committee meetings in which a substantial official service is performed the Executive Officer shall be notified and approval shall be obtained from the Board Chair prior to Board member's attendance.

2. The term "day actually spent in the discharge of official duties" shall mean such time as is expended from the commencement of a Board or committee meeting until that meeting is adjourned.

If a member is absent for a portion of a meeting, hours are then reimbursed for time actually spent. Travel time is not included in this component.

3. For Board-specified work, Board members will be compensated for time actually spent in performing work authorized by the Board Chair. This may also include, but is not limited to, authorized attendance at other events, meetings, hearings, or conferences. Work also includes preparation time for Board or committee meetings and reading and deliberating mail ballots for disciplinary actions.
4. Reimbursable work does not include miscellaneous reading and information gathering unrelated to board business and not related to any meeting, preparation time for a presentation and participation at meetings not related to official participation of the members duties with the Board.
5. Board members may participate on their own (i.e., as a citizen or professional) at an event or meeting but not as an official Board representative unless approved in writing by the Chair. Requests must be submitted in writing to the Chair for approval and a copy provided to the Executive Officer. However, Board members should recognize that even when representing themselves as "individuals," their positions might be misconstrued as that of the Board.

CHAPTER 4. Selection of Officers & Committees

Officers of the Board

The Board shall elect at the first meeting of each year a Chair and Vice Chair.

Election of Officers

Elections of the officers shall occur annually at the first meeting of each year.

Officer Vacancies

If an office becomes vacant during the year, the Chair may appoint a member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term until the next annual election.

If the office of the Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall assume the office of the Chair. Elected officers shall then serve the remainder of the term.

Board Member Addresses

Board member addresses and telephone numbers are confidential and shall not be released to the public without expressed authority of the individual Board member. A roster of Board members is maintained for public distribution on the Board's web site using the Board's address and telephone number.

Board Member Written Correspondence and Mailings

All correspondence, press releases, articles, memoranda or any other communication written by any Board member in his or her official capacity must be provided to the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer will retain a copy in a chronological file.

Communications: Other Organizations/Individuals/Media

All communications relating to any Board action or policy to any individual or organization, or a representative of the media shall be made only by the Board Chair, his or her designee, or the Executive Officer. Any Board member who is contacted by any of the above should inform the Board Chair or Executive Officer of the contact

Committee Appointments

The Chair shall establish committees as he or she deems necessary.

The composition of the committees and the appointment of the members shall be determined by the Board Chair in consultation with the Vice Chair and the Executive Officer.

Committee Meetings

Each committee will be comprised of at least two Board members. The committees are an important venue for ensuring that staff and Board members share information and perspectives in crafting and implementing strategic objectives.

The Board's committees allow Board members, stakeholders and staff to discuss and conduct problem solving on issues related to the Board's strategic goals. They also allow the Board to consider options for implementing components for the strategic plan.

The committees are charged with coordinating Board efforts to reach Board goals and achieving positive results on its performance measures.

The Board Chair designates one member of each committee as the committee's chairperson.

The chairperson coordinates the committee's work, ensures progress toward the Board's priorities, and presents reports as necessary at each meeting.

During any public committee meeting, comments from the public are encouraged, and the meetings themselves are frequently public forums on specific issues before a committee. These meetings shall also be run in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Attendance at Committee Meetings

If a Board member wishes to attend a meeting of a committee of which he or she is not a member, the Board member must obtain permission from the Board Chair to attend and must notify the committee chair and staff.

Board members who are not members of the committee that is meeting cannot vote during the committee meeting.

If there is a quorum of the Board at a committee meeting, Board members who are not members of the committee must sit in the audience and cannot participate in committee deliberations.

The Board's legal counsel works with the Executive Officer to assure any meeting that fits the requirements for a public meeting is appropriately noticed.

CHAPTER 5. Board Administration & Staff

Executive Officer

(B & P Code Section 4934)

The Board may appoint an Executive Officer. The Executive Officer is responsible for the financial operations and integrity of the Board, and is the official custodian of records. The Executive Officer is an at will employee, who serves at the pleasure of the Board, and may be terminated, with or without cause, in accordance with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Board Administration

Strategies for the day-to-day management of programs and staff shall be the responsibility of the Executive Officer as an instrument of the Board.

Executive Officer Evaluation

On an annual basis, the Executive Officer is evaluated by the Board Chair during a closed session. Board members provide information to the Chair on the Executive Officer's performance in advance of this meeting.

Board Staff

(B & P Code Section 4934)

Employees of the Board, with the exception of the Executive Officer, are civil service employees. Their employment, pay, benefits, discipline, termination, and conditions of employment are governed by a myriad of civil service laws and regulations and often by collective bargaining labor agreements.

Because of this complexity, the Board delegates this authority and responsibility for management of the civil service staff to the Executive Officer as an instrument of the Board.

Board members may express any staff concerns to the Executive Officer but shall refrain from involvement in any civil service matters. Board members shall not become involved in the personnel issues of any state employee.

Board Budget

The Executive Officer or the Executive Officer's designee will attend and testify at the legislative budget hearings and shall communicate all budget issues to the Administration and Legislature.

Communications with Other Organizations & Individuals

All communications relating to any Board action or policy to any individual or organization shall be made only by the Chair of the Board, his or her designee, or the Executive Officer.

Any Board member who is contacted by any of the above should inform the Board Chair or Executive Officer of the contact immediately.

All correspondence shall be issued on the Board's standard letterhead and will be disseminated by the Executive Officer's office.

Business Cards

Business cards will be provided to each Board member with the Board's name, address, telephone and fax number, and website address.

CHAPTER 6. Other Policies & Procedures

Board Member Disciplinary Actions

If a board member violates any provision of the Administrative Procedure Manual, the Chair will provide in writing, notice to the member of the violation. If the member disagrees with the notice, the board member must provide a reply in writing. After giving the board member an opportunity to respond to the notice, the Chair, at his/her discretion may meet in person or discuss by telephone with the board member to discuss the violation. The Chair may ask a third person to be present during the meeting. If the matter is not resolved at the end of the meeting or it is resolved but the board member continues to violate the procedures in the manual, the Chair may agendaize at the next board meeting an item asking for censure of the board member.

If the violation concerns the Chair's conduct, the Vice-Chair will handle the matter.

Terms and Removal of Board Members

(B & P Code Sections 4929 and 4930)

The Governor appoints three acupuncturist members and two public members of the Board. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint a public member. Each appointment shall be for the term of four years, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term only. No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms on the Board

Each Governor appointee shall serve until his successor has been appointed and qualified or until 60 days has elapsed since the expiration of his term whichever first occurs. Each Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly appointee shall serve until his successor has been appointed and qualified or until one year has elapsed since the expiration of his term whichever first occurs.

The Governor has the power to remove any member from the Board appointed by him for continued neglect of duties required by law, or for incompetence, or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

Resignation of Board Members

(Government Code Section 1750(b))

In the event that it becomes necessary for a Board member to resign, a letter shall be sent to the appropriate appointing authority (Governor's Office, Senate Rules Committee, or the Speaker of the Assembly) with the effective date of the resignation. Written notification is required by state law. A copy of this letter shall also be sent to the Board Chair and the Executive Officer.

Conflict of Interest

(Government Code Section 87100)

No Board member may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he or she knows or has reason to know he or she has a financial interest.

Any Board member who has a financial interest shall disqualify him or herself from making or attempting to use his or her official position to influence the decision.

Any Board member who feels he or she is entering into a situation where there is a potential for a conflict of interest should immediately consult the Executive Officer or the Board's legal counsel.

Contact with Licensees and Applicants

Board members shall not intervene on behalf of a licensee or applicant for licensure for any reason. They should forward all contacts or inquiries to the Executive Officer.

Contact with Respondents

Board members should not directly participate in complaint handling and resolution or investigations. To do so would subject the Board member to disqualification in any future disciplinary action against the licensee. If a Board member is contacted by a respondent or his/her attorney, the Board member should refer the individual to the Executive Officer.

Service of Legal Documents

If a Board member is personally served as a party in any legal proceeding related to his or her capacity as Board member, he or she must contact the Executive Officer immediately.

Serving as an Expert Witness

(Executive Order 66.2)

Pursuant to Executive Order 66-2, no employment, activity, or enterprise shall be engaged in by any gubernatorial appointee which might result in, or create the appearance of resulting in any of the following:

1. Using the prestige or influence of a State office for the appointee's private gain or advantage.
2. Using state time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for the appointee's private gain or advantage, or the private gain or advantage of another.

3. Using confidential information acquired by virtue of State involvement for the appointees private gain or advantage, or the private gain or advantage of another.
4. Receiving or accepting money or any other consideration from anyone other than the State for the performance of an act which the appointee would be required or expected to render in the regular course of hours of his or her State employment or as a part of the appointee's duties as a State officer.

Gifts from Licensees and Applicants

A gift of any kind to Board members from licensees, applicants for licensure, continuing education providers or approved schools is not permitted. Gifts must be returned immediately

Ex Parte Communications

(Government Code Section 11430.10 et seq.)

The Government Code contains provisions prohibiting ex parte communications. An "ex parte" communication is a communication to the decision-maker made by one party to an enforcement action without participation by the other party. While there are specified exceptions to the general prohibition, the key provision is found in subdivision (a) of section 11430.10, which states:

"While the proceeding is pending, there shall be no communication, direct or indirect, regarding any issue in the proceeding to the presiding officer from an employee or representative of an agency that is a party or from an interested person outside the agency, without notice and an opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication."

Board members are prohibited from an ex parte communication with Board enforcement staff while a proceeding is pending.

Occasionally, an applicant who is being formally denied licensure, or a licensee against whom disciplinary action is being taken, will attempt to directly contact Board members. If the communication is written, the person should read only far enough to determine the nature of the communication. Once he or she realizes it is from a person against whom an action is pending, they should reseal the documents and send them to the Executive Officer.

If a Board member receives a telephone call from an applicant under any circumstances or licensee against whom an action is pending, he or she should immediately tell the person they cannot speak to them about the matter and inform the Executive Officer and the Board's legal counsel.

If the person insists on discussing the case, he or she should be told that the Board member will be required to recuse him or herself from any participation in the matter. Therefore, continued discussion is of no benefit to the applicant or licensee.

If a Board member believes that he or she has received an unlawful ex parte communication, he or she should contact the Executive Officer and the Board's legal counsel.

Honoraria Prohibition

(Government Code Section 89503 and FPPC Regulations, Title 2, Division 6)

As a general rule, members of the Board should decline honoraria for speaking at, or otherwise participating in, professional association conferences and meetings. A member of a state Board is precluded from accepting an honorarium from any source, if the member would be required to report the receipt of income or gifts from that source on his or her statement of economic interest.

Board members are required to report income from, among other entities, professional associations and continuing education providers. Therefore, a Board member should decline all offers for honoraria for speaking or appearing before such entities.

There are limited exceptions to the honoraria prohibition. The acceptance of an honorarium is not prohibited under the following circumstances:

- (1) when a honorarium is returned to the donor (unused) within 30 days;
- (2) when an honorarium is delivered to the State Controller within thirty days for donation to the General Fund (for which a tax deduction is not claimed); and
- (3) when an honorarium is not delivered to the Board member, but is donated directly to a bona fide charitable, educational, civic, religious, or similar tax exempt, non-profit organization.

In light of this prohibition, members should report all offers of honoraria to the Board Chair so that he or she, in consultation with the Executive Officer and staff counsel, may determine whether the potential for conflict of interest exists.

Board Member Orientation

The Board member orientation session shall be given to new Board members within one year of assuming office.

Ethics Training

California law requires all appointees to take an ethics orientation within the first six months of their appointment and to repeat this ethics orientation every two years throughout their term.

Sexual Harassment Training

(Government Code Section 12950.1)

Board members are required to undergo sexual harassment training and education once every two years.