

## MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 12, 2025
TO	California Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Matt McKinney, Deputy Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 12.B. Examination/Licensing Report

### **Examination Updates**

#### International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)

The ICVA administers the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). ICVA's mission is to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.

Since the last Board meeting, ICVA has disseminated the following announcements:

#### **[NAVLE Retake Policy Changes Effective December 1, 2025](#)**

ICVA informed NAVLE candidates of a change to its retake policy effective with the March 2026 testing window. The update will grant all candidates five new opportunities to retake the NAVLE, regardless of their prior testing history. Test attempts made before December 1, 2025, will not count toward the new five attempt limit.

ICVA announced elimination of the waiver process. As a result, any open waiver requests will be voided. More information is available on [ICVA's NAVLE Retake Policy FAQ](#).

#### **[ICVA Statement on NAVLE Independent Audit](#)**

ICVA issued a statement regarding its commitment to ensuring all members of the veterinary community feel confident in the exam's rigor and impartiality. The statement acknowledged questions raised by members of the community around the development, administration, and scoring of the NAVLE.

ICVA announced their decision to have an independent third party audit the examination. The process is in its early stages and ICVA will continue to update the community.

## American Association of State Boards (AAVSB) Announcements

The AAVSB administers the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). The AAVSB's mission is AAVSB's leadership and comprehensive resources support and advance veterinary medicine regulation.

### 2025 Annual Meeting and Conference

AAVSB provided an update on its 2025 Annual Meeting and Conference held in Cincinnati, OH. The event featured committee meetings, elections for AAVSB leadership positions, and voting on bylaws, resolutions, and model documents. Congratulations to Dr. Bradbury, who was elected Director during the event.

AAVSB announced its 2026 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held September 22-26, 2026, in Providence, RI.

### New Bill Allows 529 Plan to Pay for VTNE

AAVSB announced the *Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act* passed in summer 2025 can be used for qualifying expenses related to the VTNE. AAVSB stated the change reflects the growing recognition of the vital role credentialed veterinary technicians play in animal health and welfare.

### Veterinary Professional Association FAQ

In November 2024, [Proposition 129](#) passed in Colorado, establishing the Veterinary Professional Associate (VPA) role. AAVSB provided a timeline of events leading up to its involvement with the creation of the VPA along with an FAQ section.

### Licensure Data by Jurisdiction

During the 2025 Annual Meeting and Conference, the AAVSB adopted [Resolution 2025-2](#).

AAVSB provided a map of and alphabetized list of participating jurisdictions.

## Licensing Updates

### Board Applications Received

Through Quarter 2 (Q2) Fiscal Year (FY) 25/26, the Board received a total of 1,846 applications across all license types. Comparing to Q2 FY 24/25, the Board received 142 less applications.

The number of veterinarian applications received during the reporting period saw no significant deviation with 300 received through in Q2 FY 25/26 compared to 294 through Q2 FY 24/25. The Board received approximately 100 less of each registered veterinary technicians (RVT) and veterinary assistance controlled substance (VACS) permit applications comparing data through Q2 from the FYs.

### Licenses, Registrations, and Permits Issued

The Board issued a total of 1,610 licenses, permits, and registrations through Q2 FY 25/26. That represents a decrease in issued licenses, registrations, and permits by 195 comparing data through Q2 FY 24/25.

Comparing individual license, registration, and permit data from Q2 FY 25/26 to Q2 FY 24/25, the Board issued slightly more veterinarian (330 compared to 321) licenses and veterinary premises registrations (163 compared to 133). However, the Board issued less RVT registrations (352 compared to 430) and VACS permits (752 compared to 906).

#### Applications Pending

At the beginning of FY 25/26, the Board had 584 total paid applications pending and there are currently 579 paid applications pending. Compared to the number of applications pending at the end of Q2 FY 24/25, the Board's number of pending applications decreased by 227.

#### License Population

The Board's total license population continues to grow. The license population increased to 48,417 during Q2 FY 25/26 compared to 47,076 at the conclusion of Q2 FY 24/25.

#### Attachments

1. Licensing Statistics

# Licensing Statistics

Applications Received				FY 25/26						
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
VET	903	984	1,040	65	57	42	44	33	59	300
RVT	1,017	968	885	98	56	58	77	51	56	396
VACSP	2,418	2,221	1,939	148	174	173	200	146	120	961
HSP	507	423	368	35	54	21	30	23	22	185
UNI	94	43	25	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Total	4,939	4,639	4,257	349	342	294	351	253	257	1,846

Licenses Issued				FY 25/26						
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
VET	765	813	906	118	48	59	51	24	30	330
RVT	872	815	787	111	39	50	72	34	46	352
VACSP	2,135	1,866	1,709	121	123	136	151	106	115	752
HSP	459	364	334	35	38	22	30	15	23	163
UNI	33	26	23	7	2	2	0	2	0	13
Total	4,264	3,884	3,759	392	250	269	304	181	214	1,610

Applications Pending				FY 25/26						
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
VET	113	273	210	149	146	120	107	105	139	139
RVT	181	159	110	87	91	74	72	82	106	106
VACSP	303	392	233	223	236	251	270	279	303	303
HSP	27	52	20	19	29	26	24	25	30	30
UNI	0	12	11	7	5	4	3	1	1	1
Total	624	888	584	485	507	475	476	492	579	579

Licensee Population*				FY 25/26						
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
VET	16,264	16,711	16,977	17,040	17,039	17,048	17,023	16,994	16,961	16,961
VET-CA	12,430	12,848	13,199	13,277	13,292	13,552	13,319	13,300	13,307	13,307
RVT	11,105	11,687	11,976	12,044	12,043	12,054	12,072	12,057	12,064	12,064
RVT-CA	10,055	10,628	10,981	11,051	11,046	11,256	11,094	11,087	11,108	11,108
VACSP	12,108	13,121	14,241	14,277	14,298	14,335	14,378	14,392	14,425	14,425
HSP	4,446	4,559	4,603	4,622	4,652	4,662	4,681	4,690	4,699	4,699
UNI	219	247	258	263	263	264	268	269	268	268
Total**	44,142	46,325	48,055	48,246	48,295	48,363	48,422	48,402	48,417	48,417

\*Includes current active, current inactive, and expired.

\*\*Excludes CA-only rows

## Application Processing Times