GOVERNOR SIGNS 'SUNSET' BILL EXTENDING

BOARD OF PHARMACY FOR FOUR MORE YEARS

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. has signed SB 1193 (Hill), a bill renewing the statutory term of the California State Board of Pharmacy until Jan. 1, 2021, and making key changes in the state's Pharmacy Law.

Each year, the California Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the California Senate Committee on Business, Economic Development and Professions conduct joint sunset review hearings to examine the boards and bureaus in the Department of Consumer Affairs that are responsible for protecting consumers and the public and regulating the professionals they license. The sunset review process provides an opportunity to discuss the performance of the boards and make recommendations for improvements.

SB 1193 extends the operation of the Board of Pharmacy, which was set for repeal on Jan. 1, 2017, for an additional four years.

"The board is very focused on optimizing its impact on medication safety for California patients, and the additional provisions included in SB 1193 will greatly contribute to our consumer protection mandate," board President Amy Gutierrez said. "The board will discuss an implementation timeline for each of these provisions at the next board meeting."

SB 1193 also authorizes the board to develop processes to begin licensing "outsourcing facilities" that do business within or ship sterile products into California. Outsourcing facilities, which compound sterile drugs, are required to be registered with the federal Food and Drug Administration and to meet most of the same rigorous quality standards applied to drug manufacturers.

SB 1193 also establishes new rules for pharmacies that own or provide dangerous drugs stored and dispensed through automated drug dispensing machines, including a requirement that the board be informed of the location of such systems within 30 days. Pharmacies also must report any drug losses that occur within these automated machines to the board.

Other changes in SB 1193 include a requirement that pharmacists, intern pharmacists, pharmacist technicians and all designated representatives who have email addresses provide and maintain that information with the board. The new law also expands the legal definition of "person" in the Pharmacy Law to allow ownership interests by trusts.

The full text and legislative history of SB 1193, which also makes changes in laws governing other California healing arts professions, is available here.