



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
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Annual Report

Carl W. Aron
President

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Mission

In continuous existence since 1888, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy is the oldest state pharmacy licensing agency in the United States. Created by the Louisiana Legislature, its mission remains unchanged over a century later: to regulate the practice of pharmacy in such a manner as to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana. Toward that goal, the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act specifically authorizes the board to restrict the practice of pharmacy to qualified persons, as well as to control and regulate all persons and sites that sell drugs or devices or provide pharmacy care services to consumers in this state.

Membership

The board is composed of seventeen members: two pharmacists from each of eight districts and one public member at large. The district representatives are nominated by pharmacists, appointed by the governor, and serve six year terms. The public member is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the governor. The current members of the board are:

District 1	Joseph L. Adams, Salvatore J. D'Angelo
District 2	Reuben R. Dixon, Ruth C. Jean
District 3	Philip C. Aucoin, Richard J. Oubre
District 4	Lois R. Anderson, Clovis S. Burch
District 5	Carl W. Aron, T. Morris Rabb
District 6	B. Belaire Bourg, Wayne A. Camp
District 7	Theodore S. Carmichael, Larry J. Lantier, Jr.
District 8	Brian A. Bond, Marty R. McKay
Public	Jeffrey M. Landry

During the past year, five former members retired from active service on the board. George L. Boudreaux, Lee C. Foster, Blake P. Pitre, Willie R. Seal, Hewitt P. Theriot, and Charles D. Trahan collectively donated 140 years of faithful service to the board.

Licensure

In order to facilitate the restriction of practice to qualified persons, the board has established educational, experiential, and examination requirements for licensure. As authorized by the legislature, the board has contracted its examination procedures with professional testing services.

A. *Examinations*

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) are administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). These computer adaptive tests are administered in continuous window opportunities at multiple sites throughout the state. A minimum scaled score of 75 is required on each test to qualify for pharmacist licensure. The results for all Louisiana-based NAPLEX and MPJE candidates in calendar year 2000 are summarized below:

	<u>NAPLEX</u>	<u>MPJE</u>
Total No. of Candidates	118	169
State Average Score	90.44	81.07
State Pass Rate	82.78%	88.07%
National Average Score	94.28	82.00
National Pass Rate	86.01%	90.94%

The board issued 133 new pharmacist licenses this past year.

Persons already licensed as a pharmacist by any other state (except California and Florida) who wish to obtain a license in Louisiana must successfully complete the MPJE as well as a personal interview with the board's reciprocity committee. Of the 133 new pharmacist licenses issued this past year, 29 of them were issued subsequent to successful completion of the reciprocity process.

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) administers a national certification examination three times a year throughout the nation. A minimum scaled score of 75 is required to successfully complete the examination. The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy accepts the PTCB examination result as part of the licensure requirements for pharmacy technicians. The results for all Louisiana-based PTCB candidates for calendar year 2000 are summarized below:

No. of State Candidates	814
State Pass Rate	72%
No. of National Candidates	33,359
National Pass Rate	77%

The board issued 314 new pharmacy technician certificates this past year.

B. Census Data

At the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2001, a review of the records yielded the following information:

1. Pharmacists

a.	Number of active licenses	5,788
b.	Number of licensees in state	3,887
c.	Practice settings identified:	
	Community	2,121
	Hospital	1,356
	Manufacturer/Distributor	60
	Academia	39
	Government	92
	Other	250

2.	<u>Pharmacist Interns</u>		
	Number of active registrations		957
3.	<u>Pharmacy technicians</u>		
	a.	Number of active certificates	3,216
	b.	Number of trainee work permits	2,896
4.	<u>Pharmacies</u>		
	Number of active permits		2,181
	Independent retail	584	
	Retail chain	528	
	Hospital	171	
	Parenteral/enteral	101	
	Institutional	17	
	Nuclear	12	
	Clinic	18	
	Correctional	12	
	Provisional	8	
	Emergency drug kit	468	
	Out-of-state	262	
	Automated med systems	0	

Compliance

A. *Enforcement*

In order to control and regulate the practice of pharmacy in Louisiana, the board employs four pharmacist compliance officers to perform routine inspections and special investigations throughout the year in all places under the board's jurisdiction. The major activities of the inspectors during the past year are summarized here:

Routine Inspections	758
Visits for Permit Changes [new, transfer, etc.]	127
Drug Destruction Requests	30
Calls for Assistance	280
Investigations	146
Audits	31

In addition, compliance officers coordinate other investigative activities with a wide range of agencies, including local police departments, parish sheriff departments, other state regulatory and law enforcement agencies, and federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Though the compliance officers utilize the educational approach as the fundamental mechanism to achieve compliance, certain circumstances warrant formal board action.

B. Adjudication

During the past year, the board has taken formal action on several credentials. A summary of their activity is presented here:

<i>Sanction</i>	<u>Pharmacist</u>	<u>Technician</u>	<u>Intern</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Warning	1		1	2
Reprimand	1			
Voluntary Surrender	7	3	1	
Suspension	5	1		
Reinstatement	7	2		
Probation	18	7		4
Revocation	1	8		1

C. Impaired Practitioner Recovery Program

The board established their program in 1988 to assist practitioners obtain treatment for their impairment, maintain their recovery, and assist in their re-entry to professional practice. As of July 1, 38 pharmacists and one technician were enrolled in the program. Five participants were still on active suspension, and the others were on probated reinstatement status.

Board Activity

As reflected in the data presented elsewhere in this report, the examination, reciprocity, reinstatement, violations, and impairment committees have been consistently active throughout the year. The regulation revision committee continued on its multi-year project to completely revise the board regulations, subsequent to the statutory revision completed in 1999. During the past year, the board promulgated one new chapter of regulations [*Chapter 12 – Automated Medication Systems* in August 2000] and revised two existing chapters [*Chapter 7 – Pharmacy Education* in October 2000 and *Chapter 8 – Pharmacy Technicians* in December 2000]. Several other chapters are in various drafting stages.

The 2001 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature two measures that revised portions of the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act, and one measure that revised a portion of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act.

- Act 852 amended LRS 37:1241.A.17 to revise the procedures relative to generic interchange; it will become effective January 1, 2002.
- Act 1031 amended LRS 37:1226 to provide for the transfer of certain drugs to provisional pharmacies under certain conditions; it will become effective August 15, 2001.
- Act 282 amended LRS 40:964 to change the classification of dronabinol to coincide with the federal schedule; it will become effective August 15, 2001.

The board continues to maintain its liaison relationships with a variety of local, state, and national pharmacist practitioner organizations, as well as other state and national regulatory agencies, the schools of pharmacy, and our elected officials on the state and national levels.

Board Office

To provide for the consolidation of board meeting activity, as well as to accommodate additional staffing, the board elected to expand the size of the office by annexation of recently vacated space. The first two phases of the renovation project have been completed; the remaining phase calls for the renovation of the original portion of the office. Additional staffing has been added to the Licensure Division to meet the needs of an increased number of licensees. A series of technology upgrades have been implemented to increase the quality, quantity, and efficiency of the services provided.

The Manager of the Compliance Division is Mr. Carlos M. Finalet, III, who also serves as General Counsel for the board. The four pharmacist compliance officers are Mr. Stephen L. Collins, Mr. H. Jerome Foti, Ms. Kathleen V. Gaudet, and Mr. W. Jerry Johnson. The Manager of the Licensure Division is Ms. Jeri Villeneuve; two licensing assistants report to her: Ms. Melissa Rushing and Ms. Bella Schomberg. The Manager of the Administrative Division is Ms. Gail Leggett, and part-time student workers assist her. The Executive Director is Mr. Malcolm J. Broussard.

The address of the board office is:

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The board's website address is www.labp.com and email is received at labp@labp.com.

Conclusion

The board has had an active year on several fronts, and all of these activities have contributed to the overall mission of the board. The board had adopted an aggressive budget to provide funding for infrastructure improvements; financial performance exceeded expectations.

The officers and members of the board, as well as the entire office staff, are committed to achieving our goal of protecting the public through appropriate regulation of the practice of pharmacy in this state. We understand that public service is a privilege, and we endeavor to render that service honorably.