



# **Louisiana Board of Pharmacy**

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## Annual Report

July 1, 2002

Carl W. Aron  
President

## **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 selected 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

## **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 2001 are summarized below:

	<u>NAPLEX</u>	<u>MPJE</u>
Total No. of Candidates	233	261
State Average Score	86.84	80.48
State Pass Rate	78.38%	88.92%
National Average Score	94.15	81.88
National Pass Rate	86.38%	90.88%

The board issued 142 new pharmacist licenses during 2001.

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 142 new pharmacist licenses issued this past year, 36 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 score result as part of the licensure requirements for pharmacy technicians. The results for all Louisiana-based PTCB candidates for calendar year 2001 are summarized below:

No. of State Candidates	821
State Pass Rate	71%
No. of National Candidates	31,107
National Pass Rate	78%

The board issued 371 new pharmacy technician certificates during 2001.

#### *B. Census Data*

At the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2002, a review of the records yielded the following information:

##### 1. Pharmacists

a.	Number of active licenses	5,839
b.	Number of licensees in state	4,386
c.	Practice settings identified:	
	Community	3,130
	Hospital	1,369
	Manufacturer/Distributor	71
	Academia	36
	Government	88
	Other	1,145

2.	<u>Pharmacist Interns</u>	
	Number of active registrations	976
3.	<u>Pharmacy technicians</u>	
a.	Number of active certificates	3,453
b.	Number of trainee work permits	2,372
4.	<u>Pharmacies</u>	
	Number of active permits	1,767
	Independent retail	576
	Retail chain	535
	Hospital	174
	Parenteral/enteral	96
	Institutional	18
	Nuclear	14
	Clinic	19
	Correctional	13
	Provisional	9
	Emergency drug kit	461
	Out-of-state	313
	Automated med systems	109

## **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. Besides the routine inspections, site visits for permit changes, drug destruction requests, and other calls for assistance, the compliance officers investigated the 167 complaints received in the Board office during 2001. Of that number, one case is still an ongoing multi-agency investigation, two cases were referred to other agencies, and 63 cases were settled administratively. The Compliance Division referred the other 101 cases to the Violations Committee. The committee issued formal sanctions in 84 of those cases, dismissed 15 of them, and still has two cases pending further action.

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, the Food and Drug 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 fiscal year, the Board conducted four administrative hearings and took formal disciplinary 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	10	6	1	1
Reprimand	10			4
Voluntary Surrender	12	10		
Suspension	8	2		
Reinstatement	14			
Probation	21	2	1	2
Revocation		13		

## *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, 2002 there were 40 pharmacists, one intern, and two technicians enrolled in the program. They surrendered their credentials while in treatment, and then were reinstated on probation; they practice under various restrictions designed to monitor their re-entry to professional practice. In addition, 11 pharmacists and two technicians were still on active suspension for impairment reasons.

## **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 regulation [*Section 1109 – Prescriptions* in December 2001]. Several other chapters are in various drafting stages. The current revision project schedule anticipates substantial promulgation activity in the 2003 calendar year.

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 a foundation for enhanced communication and operational service levels, the Board authorized a series of technology upgrades. The first of three phases was completed in June 2002; the remaining phases will permit online verification of licenses and online renewals. Another contractor has been engaged to upgrade the Board's website to provide for more timely and functional content.

The staff roster is provided here:

Executive Director	Mr. Malcolm J. Broussard
Licensure Division	
Manager	Ms. Jeri Villeneuve
Licensing Assistant	Ms. Kelley Villeneuve
Compliance Division	
General Counsel	Mr. Carlos M. Finalet, III
Compliance Officer	Ms. Kathleen V. Gaudet
Compliance Officer	Mr. Stephen L. Collins
Administrative Division	
Office Manager	Ms. Gail B. Leggett
Secretary	Ms. Judy Dinicola

Mr. W. Jerry Johnson retired from his position as Compliance Officer in May 2002 after 13 years of service. Mr. H. Jerome Foti resigned his position as Compliance Officer in June 2002 after 12 years of service. At the time this report was prepared, the Board was engaged in a search process to fill both vacancies.

The address of the board office is:

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The board's website address is [www.labp.com](http://www.labp.com) and email is received at [labp@labp.com](mailto: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 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.