

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: May 2013 – O-200

DATE: April 24, 2013

TO: Subcommittee on Examinations

FROM: Greg Shin, Director for Operations and Management

SUBJECT: Two-Day Examination Proposal

BACKGROUND

Attached for your reference are the reports entitled: 1) “The Estimated Effect on Examination Quality and Passing Rates of Different Ways of Modifying California’s Bar Examination” (Attachment A) and 2) “History Of General Bar Examination Structure and Pass/Fail Rules” (Attachment B), which were prepared by Stephen P. Klein, Ph.D. and Roger Bolus, Ph.D. in connection with the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) consideration of changing the format of the General Bar Examination from three days to two days.

On Friday, May 3, 2013, a public forum will be held to receive additional input on the proposal for changing the format of the General Bar Examination from three days to two days (See Attachment “O-100.”)

The Committee previously took the following action:

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that in furtherance of the Committee’s efforts to ensure that the California Bar Examination more efficiently tests applicants for admission to practice law in California to determine minimum competence in the law, that outreach on the proposal to reduce the General Bar Examination to two days from three days proceed with the concept of the two-day examination constructed as follows: 1) Tuesday morning session consisting of three hours during which three, one-hour essay questions would be administered, 2) Tuesday afternoon session consisting of three and one-half hours during which two, one-hour essay questions and one, 90-minute Performance Test would be administered and 3) Wednesday – morning and afternoon sessions consisting of three hours each, during which 100 multiple-choice items for each session would be administered (MBE); that during the grading process, the written and MBE portions of the examination be weighted equally.

DISCUSSION

After receipt of the comments that may be received and consideration of all other discussions and information previously provided on this subject, the Subcommittee may wish to recommend to the full Committee that either: 1) the proposal continue to be studied, 2) the proposal proceed with implementation, or 3) that no further action be taken on the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

Pending

PROPOSED MOTION

Pending