



The State Bar *of California*

Update on July 2024 Bar Exam Administration

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Background and Discussion Overview



Structural budget issues impacting the Office of Admissions

- Approved fee increases close most, but not all of the gap



Cost reductions needed

- Bar exam administration
 - February 2024, reduced sites
 - July 2024?
 - One-day remote?



- Deep dive: one-day remote
 - Exam security
 - Proctoring options
 - Testing Accommodations applicants



Revised: 2024 Budget Forecast Presented at September Meeting

Revenue	\$17.5 million*
Expenditures	-\$25.5 million**
Fee Increases Adopted	\$6.9 million***
February 2024 Bar Exam Cost Reduction Measure	\$550,000

Difference	-\$550,000
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July 2024 Bar Exam Cost Reduction Measure: TBD

- * Projected revenue may increase due to a higher-than-expected number of Bar Exam applicants
- ** Before 2024 Bar Exam cost reduction measures
- *** Estimate based on CALS fees not adopted and PHV and OSAAC fees pending Supreme Court approval



Exploration Completed



**Analyzed data
from post-
exam surveys
and outcomes**



**Engaged other
jurisdictions
and potential
partners**



**Identified new
remote exam
approaches
and
technologies**



**Reviewed
testing
accommodation
application
process**



**Gained
feedback from
experts and
stakeholders**



In-person Models

Traditional Facilities	Reduced Facilities
<p>Pros:</p> <p>Familiar administration</p> <p>Less travel time and cost for exam takers</p> <p>Most secure</p> <p>Cons:</p> <p>Does not achieve necessary cost reduction</p> <p>Some traditional facilities are no longer available</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Familiar administration</p> <p>State Bar cost reduction</p> <p>Most secure</p> <p>Cons:</p> <p>Additional travel time and cost for exam takers</p> <p>Some facilities are not secured for July 2024</p>



One-day Remote Models

ExamSoft Proctoring and Exam Delivery

Pros:

- ExamSoft platform is familiar
- Established vendor
- Further State Bar cost reductions as compared to facilities models

Cons:

- Exam security and limitations of record and review
- Risk of tech failure,
- Does not address many accommodations

New Proctoring and Exam Delivery Options

Pros:

- Dual-camera live proctoring is more secure
- More accommodations addressed
- Further State Bar cost reductions compared to one-day remote with ExamSoft

Cons:

- Risk of tech failure
- Untested at scale
- Less established vendors
- Nonsecure mode required

ExamSoft and In-home Proctors

Pros:

- In-home proctoring addresses additional accommodations
- Improves exam security
- Minimal cost increase if State Bar contracts directly with in-home supportive service workers

Cons:

- Logistically challenging
- Additional cost if State Bar contracts with support service organizations



Testing Accommodation Forum

- Some exam takers are eager for the State Bar to utilize new remote exam delivery and proctoring platforms and/or test center providers.
- Additional cameras are welcomed by some if it means remote exams are available to those with accommodations.
- Exam takers want the ability to leave the view of camera when necessary.
- Allowances for bathroom breaks is an important topic to exam takers.



Additional Research is Required

- The technology already used by the State Bar is evolving:
 - ExamSoft launched new testing accommodation features.
 - Other vendors are launching improvements in the coming months.
- New proctoring platforms require research:
 - Dual-camera proctoring has not been stress-tested at scale.
 - Remote exam delivery with live assistants requires additional testing.
- Test-center and fully-remote exam models cannot be achieved in time for July 2024.
- Novel approaches, such as in-home proctoring, require additional review and partner engagement.



Preliminary Staff Recommendation for July 2024: Reduced Facilities



Continues cost reductions necessary to improve Office of Admissions budget position.



Safest approach given current degree of unknowns.



Staff will continue to explore other options and will bring final recommendation to the Board in January.



Questions

