

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies faculty licensure requirements for dentists, modifies continuing education requirements for certain volunteer and retired dentists, modifies clinical examination requirements for dentist licensure, modifies dental hygienist authority, and requires the commissioner of human services to report on the feasibility of an urgent care dental clinic.

Section

- 1 Faculty dentists.** Establishes two classes of licenses for faculty of a school of dentistry; limited and full. Limited faculty licensure only entitles dentist to practice within the school and only for purposes of instruction or research. Full faculty licensure permits practice within a school and elsewhere if the dentist is employed at least 50% of the time by a school and upon successful review by the board of the applicant's qualifications. Provides that the board may waive specific licensing prerequisites.
- 2 Volunteer and retired dentists exempt from continuing education requirements.** Provides an exemption from continuing education requirements for retired dentists who do only volunteer work.
- 3 Examination waived.** Permits the commissioner to waive clinical examination required for licensure in case of a graduate of an accredited dental school who has successfully completed parts I and II of the National Boards and who has satisfactorily completed an accredited postdoctoral residency program of at least one year's duration. This section is effective January 1, 2004.

Section

- 4 Dental hygienist authority modified.**
- ▶ Under certain limited conditions, dental hygienists may perform dental hygiene services without the patient first being examined by a dentist. This section modifies those circumstances to include hygienists employed by a health care facility, program or organization if the hygienist has engaged in the active practice of clinical dental hygiene for either 2,400 hours in the past 18 months or a total of 3,000 hours including a minimum of 200 hours in two of the past three years. Authorization also requires that hygienist has participated in courses in infection control and medical emergencies and has current certification in advanced or basic cardiac life support course within the past two years.
 - ▶ Authorizes dental hygienists to perform educational functions, fluoride varnishes, pit and fissure sealants, and scaling. Also authorizes dental hygienists to work with unregistered and registered dental assistants.
 - ▶ Requires collaborating agreement between dentist and hygienist to include age and procedure specific standard collaborative practice protocols, copies of consent to treatment forms, specific protocols for placement of pit and fissure sealants, and a procedure for maintaining dental records for patients who are treated by the dental hygienist.
 - ▶ Requires consent form to be provided by hygienist to patients when services are provided under this section.
 - ▶ Clarifies the definition of "health care facility, program, or organization."
- 5 Restorative procedures.** Permits dental hygienists or dental assistants to perform specified restorative procedures if they have completed a board-approved course on the treatment, a licensed dentist has authorized the procedure and a licensed dentist is available at the clinic while the procedure is performed.
- 6 Advisory committee duties amended.** Provides that the duties of the dental access advisory committee are to develop a new model for delivery of dental care services to public program participants and to explore innovative ways to develop workforce solutions to ensure statewide access to dental care.
- 7 Annual report required.** Makes the one-time report of dental access advisory committee activities an annual report.
- 8 Sunset extended.** Extends the sunset of the dental access advisory committee until June 30, 2007.
- 9 Report required.** Requires the commissioner of human services and the dental access advisory committee to report on the feasibility of developing one or more urgent care dental clinics. Authorizes commissioner to seek federal funding for construction and operation of such a clinic.