
SENATE BILL 5322

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Deccio, Thibaudeau and Kohl

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing regulatory barriers to the provision of
2 oral health care services to rural, remote, and underserved
3 populations; amending RCW 18.29.050 and 18.29.056; and repealing 1993
4 c 323 s 6 (uncodified).

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.29.050 and 1971 ex.s. c 235 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Any person licensed as a dental hygienist in this state may remove
9 deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, may apply topical
10 preventive or prophylactic agents, may polish and smooth restorations,
11 may perform root planing and soft-tissue curettage, and may perform
12 other dental operations and services delegated to them by a licensed
13 dentist: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That licensed dental hygienists shall in no
14 event perform the following dental operations or services:

- 15 (1) Any surgical removal of tissue of the oral cavity;
16 (2) Any prescription of drugs or medications requiring the written
17 order or prescription of a licensed dentist or physician;
18 (3) Any diagnosis for treatment or treatment planning; or

1 (4) The taking of any impression of the teeth or jaw, or the
2 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating any
3 intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis.

4 Such licensed dental hygienists may perform dental operations and
5 services only under the supervision of a licensed dentist, and under
6 such supervision may be employed by hospitals, boards of education of
7 public or private schools, county boards, boards of health, or public
8 or charitable institutions, or in dental offices(~~(:—PROVIDED, That))~~).
9 The number of hygienists so employed in any dental office shall not
10 exceed ((twice in)) five times the number ((the)) of licensed dentists
11 practicing ((therein)) in the office.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.29.056 and 1984 c 279 s 63 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) Dental hygienists licensed under this chapter with two years'
15 practical clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the
16 preceding five years may be employed or retained by health care
17 facilities to perform authorized dental hygiene operations and services
18 without dental supervision, limited to removal of deposits and stains
19 from the surfaces of the teeth, application of topical preventive or
20 prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing restorations, and
21 performance of root planing and soft-tissue curettage, but shall not
22 perform injections of anesthetic agents, administration of nitrous
23 oxide, or diagnosis for dental treatment. The performance of dental
24 hygiene operations and services in health care facilities shall be
25 limited to patients, students, and residents of the facilities. For
26 dental planning and dental treatment, dental hygienists shall refer
27 patients to licensed dentists.

28 (2) For the purposes of this section, "health care facilities" are
29 limited to hospitals; nursing homes; home health agencies; group homes
30 serving the elderly, handicapped, and juveniles; state-operated
31 institutions under the jurisdiction of the department of social and
32 health services or the department of corrections; and federal, state,
33 and local public health facilities, community and migrant health
34 centers, community clinics, and tribal clinics.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** 1993 c 323 s 6 (uncodified) is repealed.

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