

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2126

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### As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to inactive licenses for dentists.

**Brief Description:** Allowing a dentist to obtain an inactive license.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Dyer, Cody, Sheldon, Smith, Van Luven, Thompson and Murray.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 1/16/96 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 1/22/96, 94-0.

Senate Amended.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Dyer, Chairman; Backlund, Vice Chairman; Hymes, Vice Chairman; Cody, Ranking Minority Member; Murray, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Casada; Conway; Crouse; Sherstad and H. Sommers.

**Staff:** John Welsh (786-7133).

**Background:** The Dental Quality Assurance Commission governs the practice of dentistry by examining applicants for licensure and acting as the dental disciplinary authority.

A person may not practice dentistry without obtaining a license, which is renewable annually, and paying the license fee, currently set at \$220.

There is no inactive license status for dentists retiring from the practice or moving out of state or otherwise ceasing practice in this state. Such a license would command a lower fee resulting from fewer costs.

**Summary of Bill:** The Dental Quality Assurance Commission is authorized to establish by rule an inactive license status. A dentist may place his or her license on inactive status, but may not practice without first activating the license.

**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):** The technical reference to the "cancellation" of an inactive dental license is clarified with the words "of the inactive license."

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Dentists wishing to remain licensed while disengaging from active practice for a variety of reasons, such as teaching or military service, are served by the inactive license status. This is currently available for physicians and nurses in this state.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Linda Hull, Washington State Dental Association (pro); and Ron Weaver, Department of Health (pro).