
SENATE BILL 5836

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Wojahn

Read first time 02/08/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to dental assistants; amending RCW 18.32.030,
2 18.32.0351, 18.32.0355, and 18.32.0357; and adding new sections to
3 chapter 18.32 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Unless a different meaning is indicated by the context, the
8 following definitions apply throughout this chapter:

9 (1) "Dental assistant" means an unlicensed person who assists a
10 licensed dentist in providing dental care to patients pursuant to this
11 chapter.

12 (2) "Credentialed dental assistant" means a licensed dental
13 assistant who is authorized to perform the duties specified in section
14 3 of this act.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.32.030 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 203 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 The following practices, acts, and operations are excepted from the
18 operation of the provisions of this chapter:

1 (1) The rendering of dental relief in emergency cases in the
2 practice of his or her profession by a physician or surgeon, licensed
3 as such and registered under the laws of this state, unless the
4 physician or surgeon undertakes to or does reproduce lost parts of the
5 human teeth in the mouth or to restore or to replace in the human mouth
6 lost or missing teeth;

7 (2) The practice of dentistry in the discharge of official duties
8 by dentists in the United States federal services on federal
9 reservations, including but not limited to the armed services, coast
10 guard, public health service, veterans' bureau, or bureau of Indian
11 affairs;

12 (3) Dental schools or colleges approved under RCW 18.32.040, and
13 the practice of dentistry by students in Washington state dental
14 schools or colleges approved by the commission, when acting under the
15 direction and supervision of Washington state-licensed dental school
16 faculty;

17 (4) The practice of dentistry by licensed dentists of other states
18 or countries while appearing as clinicians at meetings of the
19 Washington state dental association, or component parts thereof, or at
20 meetings sanctioned by them, or other groups approved by the
21 commission;

22 (5) The use of roentgen and other rays for making radiographs or
23 similar records of dental or oral tissues, under the supervision of a
24 licensed dentist or physician;

25 (6) The making, repairing, altering, or supplying of artificial
26 restorations, substitutions, appliances, or materials for the
27 correction of disease, loss, deformity, malposition, dislocation,
28 fracture, injury to the jaws, teeth, lips, gums, cheeks, palate, or
29 associated tissues or parts; providing the same are made, repaired,
30 altered, or supplied pursuant to the written instructions and order of
31 a licensed dentist which may be accompanied by casts, models, or
32 impressions furnished by the dentist, and the prescriptions shall be
33 retained and filed for a period of not less than three years and shall
34 be available to and subject to the examination of the secretary or the
35 secretary's authorized representatives;

36 (7) The removal of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the
37 teeth, the application of topical preventative or prophylactic agents,
38 and the polishing and smoothing of restorations, when performed or
39 prescribed by a dental hygienist licensed under the laws of this state;

1 (8) A qualified and licensed physician and surgeon or osteopathic
2 physician and surgeon extracting teeth or performing oral surgery
3 pursuant to the scope of practice under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW;

4 (9) The performing of dental operations or services by (~~persons~~
5 ~~not licensed under this chapter~~) dental assistants and/or credentialed
6 dental assistants when performed under the supervision of a licensed
7 dentist: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That (~~such nonlicensed person~~) a dental
8 assistant shall in no event perform the following dental operations or
9 services unless permitted to be performed by the person under this
10 chapter or chapters 18.29, 18.57, 18.71, and 18.79 RCW as it applies to
11 registered nurses and advanced registered nurse practitioners:

12 (a) Any removal of or addition to the hard or soft tissue of the
13 oral cavity;

14 (b) Any diagnosis of or prescription for treatment of disease,
15 pain, deformity, deficiency, injury, or physical condition of the human
16 teeth or jaws, or adjacent structure;

17 (c) Any administration of general or injected local anaesthetic of
18 any nature in connection with a dental operation, including intravenous
19 sedation;

20 (d) Any oral prophylaxis;

21 (e) The taking of any impressions of the teeth or jaw or the
22 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating any
23 intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 18.32 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) Credentialed dental assistants may perform all duties performed
27 by dental assistants and one or all of the following expanded duties,
28 after meeting the requirements set forth in subsection (2) of this
29 section:

30 (a) Under the close supervision of a dentist, place restorative
31 material into a cavity prepared by the dentist and thereafter carve,
32 contour, and adjust contacts and occlusions of the restoration, and
33 cement or recement stainless steel crowns. This expanded function
34 requires coursework and ability in such subjects as dental anatomy,
35 restorative materials, and restorative techniques;

36 (b) Under the close supervision of a dentist, give oral injections
37 of local anesthetic. This expanded function requires coursework and

1 ability in such subjects as head and neck anatomy, pharmacology, and
2 local anesthesia; and

3 (c) Under the close supervision of a dentist, perform supragingival
4 tooth scaling and polishing on patients with either periodontally
5 healthy mouths or localized plaque-induced gingivitis and exhibiting no
6 significant complicating systemic medical disease or disorder. This
7 expanded function requires coursework and ability in subjects such as
8 periodontal orientation, oral pathology, and clinical techniques.

9 (2) To perform expanded duties, credentialed dental assistants must
10 successfully complete an educational program approved by the commission
11 that: (a) Was designed to provide adequate didactic and clinical
12 training for expanded duties; and (b) has been approved by the
13 commission. The credentialed dental assistant carrying out expanded
14 duties must meet standards of proficiency in infection control and
15 radiology, as determined by the commission. The commission may set
16 other requirements by rule.

17 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.32.0351 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 204 are each amended
18 to read as follows:

19 The Washington state dental quality assurance commission is
20 established, consisting of (~~fourteen~~) fifteen members, each appointed
21 by the governor to a four-year term. No member may serve more than two
22 consecutive full terms. In appointing the initial members of the
23 commission, it is the intent of the legislature that, to the extent
24 possible, members of the previous boards and committees regulating
25 these professions be appointed to the commission. Members of the
26 commission hold office until their successors are appointed. The
27 governor may appoint members of the initial commission to staggered
28 terms of from one to four years. Thereafter, all members shall be
29 appointed to full four-year terms. Twelve members of the commission
30 must be dentists (~~and~~), two members must be public members, and one
31 member must be a dental assistant.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.32.0355 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 206 are each amended
33 to read as follows:

34 Members must be citizens of the United States and residents of this
35 state. Dentist members must be licensed dentists in the active
36 practice of dentistry for a period of five years before appointment.
37 Of the twelve dentists appointed to the commission, at least four must

1 reside and engage in the active practice of dentistry east of the
2 summit of the Cascade mountain range. Public members of the commission
3 may not be a member of any other health care licensing board or
4 commission, or have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering
5 health services regulated by the commission, or have a material or
6 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by the
7 commission. The dental assistant member must be a dental assistant
8 actively engaged in the practice of dental assisting for a period of
9 five years before appointment.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.32.0357 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 207 are each amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The commission shall elect officers each year. Meetings of the
13 commission are open to the public, except the commission may hold
14 executive sessions to the extent permitted by chapter 42.30 RCW. The
15 secretary of health shall furnish such secretarial, clerical, and other
16 assistance as the commission may require.

17 (2) A majority of the commission members appointed and serving
18 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of commission business. The
19 affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the commission is
20 required to carry a motion or resolution, to adopt a rule, or to pass
21 a measure.

22 (3) The commission may appoint members of panels consisting of not
23 less than three members. A quorum for transaction of any business
24 shall be a minimum of three members. A majority vote of a quorum of
25 the panel is required to transact business delegated to it by the
26 commission.

27 (4) The members of the commission are immune from suit in an
28 action, civil or criminal, based upon its disciplinary proceedings or
29 other official acts performed in good faith as members of the
30 commission.

31 (5) The commission may, whenever the workload of the commission
32 requires, request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members.
33 While serving as members pro tempore persons have all the powers,
34 duties, and immunities, and are entitled to the emoluments, including
35 travel expenses, of the commission.

36 (6) The commission shall prepare or determine the nature of the
37 examinations for applicants to practice dentistry and applicants to
38 practice credentialed dental assisting.

1 (7) The attorney general shall advise the commission and represent
2 it in all legal proceedings.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Applications for credentialed dental assistant's license shall be
6 submitted on forms provided by the commission. The commission may
7 require any information and documentation that reasonably relates to
8 the need to determine whether the applicant meets the criteria provided
9 for in this chapter. Each applicant shall pay a fee determined by the
10 secretary under RCW 43.70.250.

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