

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1699

As Passed House:

March 10, 1999

Title: An act relating to continuing education for dentists.

Brief Description: Establishing continuing education for dentists.

Sponsors: Representatives Parlette, Cody, Schoesler, Barlean, Esser, Edmonds and Van Loven.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/18/99, 2/25/99 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/10/99, 97-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Dental Quality Assurance Commission to establish a continuing dental education program.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Parlette, Republican Co-Chair; Pflug, Republican Vice Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Alexander; Boldt; Campbell; Conway; Edmonds; Edwards; Mulliken and Ruderman.

Staff: John Welsh (786-7133).

Background:

The practice of dentistry is licensed by the Department of Health, and no person may practice or refer to himself or herself as a dentist without being licensed. The Dental Quality Assurance Commission qualifies applicants for licensure and acts as the disciplinary authority for unprofessional conduct under the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

Continuing education is a method of staying current with new developments in science and technology by taking approved courses or learning opportunities related to a field of expertise. A number of the regulated health professions require continuing education as a condition for the renewal of licenses.

The dental commission does not have authority to establish a program of continuing dental education.

Summary of Bill:

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission is required to establish a continuing dental education program for applicants renewing their dental licenses.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: It is important for dentists to keep current on changes in dental science and technology by taking courses approved by the commission for continuing dental education.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Dr. Timothy Wandell, Washington State Dental Association.