

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1699

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### As Passed Legislature

**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 Luven.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

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

**Floor Activity:**

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

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/12/99, 49-0.

House Concurred.

Passed Legislature.

<h3>Brief Summary of Bill</h3>
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<p>· Requires the Dental Quality Assurance Commission to establish a continuing dental education program, effective July 1, 2001.</p>
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### 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.

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**Summary of Bill:**

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission is required to establish a continuing dental education program for applicants renewing their dental licenses. After July 1, 2001, dentists must meet requirements for continuing education as a condition of renewing their licenses.

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**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.