

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1740

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, March 18, 2009

Title: An act relating to issuance of licenses to practice dentistry.

Brief Description: Regarding the issuance of licenses to practice dentistry.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody and Hinkle).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/04/09, 95-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 3/16/09, 3/18/09 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Becker, Fairley and Parlette.

Staff: Edith Rice (786-7444)

Background: Dentists are licensed and disciplined by the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (DQAC). In order to be licensed, a dentist must:

- submit proof of graduation from a dental college, school, or dental department of an institution approved by the DQAC;
- submit a recent picture; and
- pass an examination.

A dentist may forego the examination requirement if the dentist completes a post-doctoral dental residency program accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) and the DQAC. The residency must:

- last from one to three years;
- be located in a community health clinic that serves predominantly low-income patients or that is located in a dental care health professional shortage area; and
- include an outcome assessment evaluation that assesses the resident's competence to practice dentistry.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The DQAC may issue a limited license to practice dentistry for a person to participate in the post-doctoral residency program. The license may only permit the dentist to provide dental care in connection with his or her duties in the program.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): Prior to July 1, 2010, a dental residency program must either be accredited by the ADA or be in the process of obtaining the accreditation in order to be approved by the DQAC. On or after July 1, 2010, a dental residency program must be accredited by the ADA in order to be approved by the DQAC.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): The commission can approve limited licenses for postdoctoral students in dental education as well as postdoctoral residents in a dental residency program.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2009.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (on Substitute House Bill): PRO: You heard the Senate version of this bill that would have allowed for the residency program at Swedish Hospital. This bill language (emergency clause) would ensure accreditation of residency programs that could start on July 1. There are some issues of concern raised by the University of Washington Dental School to address.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Linda Hull, Washington State Dental Association.