

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6020**

57th Legislature  
2001 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 12, 2001  
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 10, 2001  
YEAS 94 NAYS 0

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved

CERTIFICATE

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6020** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6020**

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Passed Legislature - 2001 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio and Costa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/01.

1       AN ACT Relating to access to dental care; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.29 RCW; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 18.32 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring  
4 an emergency.

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

6       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**   The legislature finds that access to  
7 preventive and restorative oral health services by low-income children  
8 is currently restricted by complex regulatory, financial, cultural, and  
9 geographic barriers that have resulted in a large number of children  
10 suffering unnecessarily from dental disease. The legislature also  
11 finds that very early exposure to oral health care can reverse this  
12 disease in many cases, thereby significantly reducing costs of  
13 providing dental services to low-income populations.

14       It is the intent of the legislature to address the problem of poor  
15 access to oral health care by providing for school-based sealant  
16 programs through the endorsement of dental hygienists.

17       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 The secretary is authorized to create a school sealant endorsement  
2 program for dental hygienists and dental assistants. The secretary of  
3 health, in consultation with the dental quality assurance commission  
4 and the dental hygiene examining committee, shall adopt rules to  
5 implement this section.

6 (1) A dental hygienist licensed in this state after the effective  
7 date of this act is eligible to apply for endorsement by the department  
8 of health as a school sealant dental hygienist upon completion of the  
9 Washington state school sealant endorsement program. While otherwise  
10 authorized to act, currently licensed hygienists may still elect to  
11 apply for the endorsement.

12 (2) A dental assistant employed after the effective date of this  
13 act by a dentist licensed in this state, who has worked under dental  
14 supervision for at least two hundred hours, is eligible to apply for  
15 endorsement by the department of health as a school sealant dental  
16 assistant upon completion of the Washington state school sealant  
17 endorsement program. While otherwise authorized to act, currently  
18 employed dental assistants may still elect to apply for the  
19 endorsement.

20 (3) The department may impose a fee for implementation of this  
21 section.

22 (4) The secretary shall provide a report to the legislature by  
23 December 1, 2005, evaluating the outcome of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.29 RCW  
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in  
27 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral  
28 health coalitions, a dental hygienist licensed in this state as of the  
29 effective date of this act may assess for and apply sealants and apply  
30 fluoride varnishes in community-based sealant programs carried out in  
31 schools without attending the department's school sealant endorsement  
32 program.

33 (2) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in  
34 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral  
35 health coalitions, dental hygienists who are school sealant endorsed  
36 under section 2 of this act may assess for and apply sealants and  
37 fluoride varnishes in community-based sealant programs carried out in  
38 schools.

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

3        (1) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in  
4 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral  
5 health coalitions, a dental assistant working as of the effective date  
6 of this act under the supervision of a licensed dentist may apply  
7 sealants and fluoride varnishes under the general supervision of a  
8 dentist in community-based sealant programs carried out in schools  
9 without attending the department's school sealant endorsement program.

10       (2) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in  
11 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral  
12 health coalitions, dental assistants who are school sealant endorsed  
13 under section 2 of this act may apply sealants and fluoride varnishes  
14 under the general supervision of a dentist in community-based sealant  
15 programs carried out in schools.

16       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
19 immediately.

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