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HOUSE BILL 1948

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Braddock, Fraser, Pruitt, Brekke and Jacobsen.

Read first time February 15, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to constraint of trade for dental hygiene services;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 18.29 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature finds that present law  
5 results in restricting the public's access to dental hygiene services  
6 as defined in chapter 18.29 RCW, restricts competition between two  
7 professions, and establishes a monopoly within the state of Washington  
8 for persons licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. The legislature finds it  
9 necessary to eliminate restrictions in current law to promote public  
10 access to cost-effective and competitive dental hygiene services.

11           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 18.29 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13           A dental hygienist licensed under this chapter, who has two years'  
14 practical clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the

1 preceding five years, may perform dental hygiene services without the  
2 supervision of a dentist. These services shall be limited to removal  
3 of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, application of  
4 topical preventive or prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing of  
5 restorations, assessment and treatment planning for dental hygiene  
6 services, injections of local anaesthetic agents for dental hygiene  
7 treatment, and root planing and soft-tissue curettage. For dental  
8 planing and dental treatment, dental hygienists shall refer patients to  
9 licensed dentists.