
SENATE BILL 5769

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Niemi, Prentice, Moore, Erwin and Fraser

Read first time 02/12/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to licensed dental hygienists; adding new sections
2 to chapter 18.29 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that present law
6 results in restricting the public's access to services provided by
7 licensed dental hygienists as defined in chapter 18.29 RCW. The
8 legislature finds it necessary to eliminate restrictions in current law
9 to promote public access to services provided by licensed dental
10 hygienists.

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
15 preceding five years, may perform dental hygiene services without the
16 supervision of a dentist. These services shall be limited to removal
17 of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, application of
18 topical preventive or prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing of

1 restorations, assessment and treatment planning for dental hygiene
2 services, injections of local anaesthetic agents for dental hygiene
3 treatment, and root planing and soft tissue curettage. For dental
4 planning and dental treatment, dental hygienists shall refer patients
5 to licensed dentists.

6 A dental hygienist performing dental hygiene services without
7 supervision as authorized in this section shall notify the patient on
8 forms adopted by the secretary in conjunction with the dental hygiene
9 examining committee that the services being provided are not dental
10 services.

11 A dental hygienist authorized to perform dental hygiene services
12 under this section shall require that each patient for whom the dental
13 hygienist performs dental hygiene service establish a dentist of record
14 within twelve months of the first appointment with the dental
15 hygienist.

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

18 (1) The department shall issue a temporary license without the
19 examination required by this chapter to any applicant who, as
20 determined by the secretary:

21 (a) Holds a valid license in another state that allows the scope of
22 practice in subsection (3)(a) through (j) of this section;

23 (b) Is currently engaged in active practice in another state. For
24 the purposes of this section, "active practice" means five hundred
25 sixty hours of practice in the preceding eighteen months;

26 (c) Files with the secretary documentation certifying that the
27 applicant:

28 (i) Has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene school approved
29 by the secretary;

30 (ii) Has successfully completed the dental hygiene national board
31 examination; and

32 (iii) Is licensed to practice in another state;

33 (d) Provides information as the secretary deems necessary
34 pertaining to the conditions and criteria of the uniform disciplinary
35 act, chapter 18.130 RCW;

36 (e) Demonstrates to the secretary a knowledge of Washington state
37 law pertaining to the practice of dental hygiene, including the
38 administration of legend drugs;

- 1 (f) Pays any required fees; and
2 (g) Meets requirements for AIDS education.
- 3 (2) The term of the temporary license issued under this section is
4 fifteen months and it is nonrenewable.
- 5 (3) A person practicing with a temporary license granted under this
6 section has the authority to perform hygiene procedures that are
7 limited to:
- 8 (a) Oral inspection and measuring of periodontal pockets;
 - 9 (b) Patient education in oral hygiene;
 - 10 (c) Taking intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs;
 - 11 (d) Applying topical preventive or prophylactic agents;
 - 12 (e) Polishing and smoothing restorations;
 - 13 (f) Oral prophylaxis and removal of deposits and stains from the
14 surface of the teeth;
 - 15 (g) Recording health histories;
 - 16 (h) Taking and recording blood pressure and vital signs;
 - 17 (i) Performing subgingival and supragingival scaling; and
 - 18 (j) Performing root planing.
- 19 (4)(a) A person practicing with a temporary license granted under
20 this section may not perform the following dental hygiene procedures
21 unless authorized in (b) or (c) of this subsection:
- 22 (i) Give injections of local anesthetic;
 - 23 (ii) Place restorations into the cavity prepared by a licensed
24 dentist and afterwards carve, contour, and adjust contacts and
25 occlusion of the restoration;
 - 26 (iii) Soft tissue curettage; or
 - 27 (iv) Administer nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia.
- 28 (b) A person licensed in another state who can demonstrate
29 substantially equivalent licensing standards in the administration of
30 local anesthetic may receive a temporary endorsement to administer
31 local anesthesia.
- 32 (c) A person licensed in another state who can demonstrate
33 substantially equivalent licensing standards in restorative procedures
34 may receive a temporary endorsement for restorative procedures.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.29 RCW
36 to read as follows:

37 A person granted a temporary license under this chapter who does
38 not meet the requirements for substantively equivalent licensing

1 standards in restorative or local anesthetic must submit proof of
2 completion of approved education in these procedures before being
3 eligible to take the dental hygiene examination.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.29 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The secretary in conjunction with the dental hygiene examining
7 committee shall develop rules and definitions to implement this
8 chapter.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.29 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 Reciprocity for licensure or temporary licensure shall be granted
12 only to persons licensed in another state that extends similar
13 privileges of reciprocity by rule or law to persons licensed under this
14 chapter.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section 3 of this act shall take effect
16 January 1, 1994.

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