

SSB 6419 - S AMD 80

By Senator Thibaudeau

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that access to
4 preventive oral health care services by citizens of Washington state is
5 currently restricted by regulatory, financial, and geographic barriers.
6 The legislature finds that many citizens unnecessarily suffer from
7 dental disease. Access to preventive oral health care services can
8 reverse dental disease in many cases, thereby significantly reducing
9 costs of providing oral health care services. The legislature further
10 finds that dental hygienists licensed in Washington state have been
11 providing preventive oral health care services without the supervision
12 of a dentist to the most medically fragile patients in institutional
13 settings for over twenty years. The legislature also finds that access
14 to preventive oral health care services can be improved, and that the
15 cost of these services can be reduced when provided by dental
16 hygienists practicing independent of dentist supervision. It is the
17 intent of the legislature to address the problem of access to
18 preventive oral health care services by providing five pilot projects
19 that allow dental hygienists to practice within the current scope of
20 practice without the supervision of a dentist.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The access to preventive care pilot projects
22 are established. The secretary of health is authorized to create five
23 pilot projects in dentally underserved areas of the state whereby
24 dental hygienists are authorized to practice within the current scope
25 of practice in RCW 18.29.050, without the supervision of a dentist.
26 Dental hygienists applying for the registry must have two years of
27 practical clinical experience supervised by a dentist within the
28 previous five years. These pilot projects are effective for three
29 years after the effective date of this section.

1 (1) The goals of the pilot projects are to:

2 (a) Open access to preventive oral health care services delivered
3 by dental hygienists;

4 (b) Collect data of patients treated by dental hygienists,
5 including age, treatments rendered, insurance coverage, if any, and
6 patient referral to dentists;

7 (c) Evaluate independently managed dental hygiene practices in
8 increasing the patient flow to dentists, thereby improving dental care;
9 and

10 (d) Examine the ways in which the pilot projects affect access to
11 preventive oral health care for underserved persons. This shall
12 include a report that (i) determines current levels of child and adult
13 access to dental care, application of preventive sealants or other
14 decay preventive measures, and incidence of child dental decay; and
15 (ii) provides indicators of changes in levels of child and adult access
16 to dental care, application of preventive sealants or other decay
17 preventive measures, and incidence of child dental decay as the result
18 of these pilot programs.

19 (2) The secretary of health, in consultation with the dental
20 hygiene examining committee, will:

21 (a) Create a registry in which dental hygienists can apply to be a
22 participant in the pilot projects; and

23 (b) Select the participants of the five pilot projects.

24 (3) The secretary of health, in consultation with the Washington
25 state dental hygienists' association, shall provide a report to the
26 legislature by December 1, 2009, evaluating the outcome of the pilot
27 projects.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Dental hygienists participating in the pilot
29 projects shall not perform injections of anesthetic agents, administer
30 nitrous oxide, or give a diagnosis for dental treatment.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Dental hygienists participating in the pilot
32 projects shall refer patients seen in these pilot projects to dentists
33 as needed.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The secretary of health shall establish a
35 task force to recommend ways to improve oral health services to

1 dentally underserved children and adults in Washington state. The task
2 force shall provide a report with recommendations to the legislature by
3 December 1, 2009. Task force membership shall include representation
4 from the department of health, board of health, Washington state dental
5 hygienists association, Washington state dental association, and local
6 health authorities from dentally underserved regions of the state."

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7 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "hygienists;" strike the
8 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

EFFECT: This striking amendment adds experience requirements for dental hygienists applying for the pilot project registry and provides some clarifying technical language agreed to by the Department of Health.

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