WSR 26-16-013
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Dental Quality Assurance Commission)
[Filed July 24, 2026, 9:06 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Dental licensure requirements for graduates of nonaccredited schools. The dental quality assurance commission (commission) is considering amending WAC 246-817-160 to define the educational and training requirements for graduates of nonaccredited schools.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 18.32.002 and 18.32.0365.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The commission has been receiving an increased number of applicants who are graduates of nonaccredited schools. Due to the varying degree of dental schools and programs, the commission is considering amending the rules pertaining to dental training and educational programs to define the standard requirements necessary to obtain dental licensure in Washington state.

The commission will consider amending WAC 246-817-160 to define the educational and training requirements for graduates of nonaccredited schools. Establishing clear standards would ensure that minimum competency requirements are met.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: None.

Process for Developing New Rule: Collaborative rule making.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Debbie Gardner, Program Manager, P.O. Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852, phone 360-236-4893, TTY 711, email dental@doh.wa.gov, website www.doh.wa.gov.

Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in the drafting of the proposed rules. The commission will be conducting rules workshops with interested parties and subject matter experts. The commission will use existing email lists and other known contact information to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language. To find out more information about our rule making, visit doh.wa.gov. To subscribe to emails, visit doh.wa.gov and select the button titled "Sign up for Updates From DOH" at the bottom of the page. After signing in, select "Health Systems Quality Assurance" and "Health Professions" and "Dental." You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to received information related to that specific profession.

July 24, 2026
Bryan Swanson, DDS, Chair
Dental Quality Assurance Commission