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SENATE BILL 6641

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Moyer, Kohl and Hochstatter

Read first time 01/22/96. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to unsupervised practice by dental hygienists;  
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 access to  
5 preventive oral health care services by low-income families and  
6 eligible medicaid recipients is currently restricted by supervision  
7 requirements for dental hygienists practicing within their existing  
8 scope of practice.

9 It is the intent of the legislature to expand access to and reduce  
10 the cost of preventive oral health care services provided by licensed  
11 dental hygienists to eligible medicaid recipients, low-income families,  
12 children, elderly persons, and other dentally underserved populations  
13 by allowing licensed dental hygienists to provide preventive oral  
14 health care services within dental hygienists' existing scope of  
15 practice without supervision requirements after two years' clinical  
16 experience with a licensed dentist.

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

1           (1) Dental hygienists licensed under this chapter who have two  
2 years' practical clinical experience with a licensed dentist may  
3 perform authorized dental hygiene operations and services without  
4 dental supervision, limited to removal of deposits and stains from the  
5 surfaces of the teeth, application of topical preventative or  
6 prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing of restorations, and  
7 performance of root planing and soft tissue curettage, but may not  
8 perform injections of anesthetic agents, administration of nitrous  
9 oxide, or diagnosis for dental treatment. For dental planning and  
10 dental treatment, dental hygienists shall refer patients to licensed  
11 dentists.

12           (2) The secretary in consultation with the dental hygiene examining  
13 committee shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section in  
14 accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

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