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**Health Care & Wellness Committee**

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**HB 1740**

**Brief Description:** Regarding the issuance of licenses to practice dentistry.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Cody and Hinkle.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Broadens the types of dental residency programs for which a limited license to practice dentistry may be issued.

**Hearing Date:** 2/10/09

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191)

**Background:**

Dentists are licensed and disciplined by the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (DQAC). In order to be licensed, a dentist must:

- submit proof of graduation from a dental college, school, or dental department of an institution approved by the DQAC;
- submit a recent picture; and
- pass an examination.

A dentist may forego the examination requirement if he or she completes a post-doctoral dental residency program accredited by the American Dental Association and the DQAC. The residency must:

- last from one to three years;
- be located in a community health clinic that serves predominantly low-income patients or that is located in a dental care health professional shortage area; and
- include an outcome assessment evaluation that assesses the resident's competence to practice dentistry.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The DQAC may issue a limited license to practice dentistry for a person to participate in the post-doctoral residency program. The license may only permit the dentist to provide dental care in connection with his or her duties in the program.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (DQAC) may issue a limited license to practice dentistry for a person to participate in any post-doctoral dental residency program approved by the DQAC (as opposed to only the residency program authorized to substitute for the examination requirement).

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested 2/06/09.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.