
SENATE BILL 5694

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Wojahn, West and McMullen.

Read first time February 15, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the licensing of dental hygienists; amending RCW
2 18.29.021, 18.29.045, 18.29.050, 18.29.060, and 18.29.130; and adding
3 new sections to chapter 18.29 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent and purpose of the
6 legislature to establish a two-tier system of dental hygienist
7 licensure in order to attract the necessary qualified persons to meet
8 the dental hygiene needs of the people of the state of Washington. The
9 existing dental hygienist scope of practice shall apply to the dental
10 hygienist II license. A narrower scope of practice and correspondingly
11 narrower scope of examination and training requirements shall apply to
12 the dental hygienist I license.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There shall be two categories of dental
14 hygienist license as follows:

1 (1) Dental hygienist I. This license authorizes practice as a
2 dental hygienist under this chapter for the acts and procedures
3 performed by dental hygienists II, excluding any authority to:

4 (a) Give injections of a local anesthetic; or

5 (b) Place restorations into the cavity prepared by the dentist, and
6 thereafter to carve, contour, and adjust contacts and occlusion of the
7 restoration.

8 (2) Dental hygienist II. This license authorizes all the acts and
9 procedures lawfully delegated by a dentist and performed by licensed
10 dental hygienists at the effective date of this section, or
11 subsequently so authorized, and specifically includes authority to:

12 (a) Give injections of a local anesthetic; and

13 (b) Place restorations into the cavity prepared by the dentist, and
14 thereafter to carve, contour, and adjust contacts and occlusion of the
15 restoration.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The term dental hygienist, when used in
17 this chapter without qualification to category I or category II,
18 includes category I and category II licensees.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Dental hygienist licenses that are valid
20 at the effective date of this section shall become dental hygienist II
21 licenses. Upon the next renewal of such a license, the renewal
22 certificate shall state it is a dental hygienist II license. The
23 licensee shall not be required to obtain, but may elect to obtain, an
24 early renewal of the license, which renewal certificate shall state it
25 is a dental hygienist II license.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** On the application, the applicant shall
27 elect to apply for either a dental hygienist I license or dental

1 hygienist II license. A dental hygienist I licensee may later apply
2 for a dental hygienist II license without surrendering or jeopardizing
3 the dental hygienist I license, except that upon successful application
4 and issuance of the dental hygienist II license, the dental hygienist
5 I license is canceled and the licensee then may be required by rule to
6 surrender the dental hygienist I license.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.29.021 and 1989 c 202 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) The department shall issue a license to any applicant who, as
10 determined by the director:

11 (a) Has successfully completed an educational program approved by
12 the director. This educational program shall include course work
13 encompassing the subject areas within the scope of the particular
14 license to practice dental hygiene in the state of Washington for which
15 the applicant has applied. For the dental hygienist I license, this
16 does not include study of anesthesia or restorative dentistry beyond
17 that level necessary to perform dental hygienist I duties;

18 (b) Has successfully completed an examination administered by the
19 dental hygiene examining committee for the category of dental hygienist
20 license for which the applicant has applied. For the dental hygienist
21 I license, the examination shall not include anesthesia or restorative
22 dentistry beyond that level necessary to perform dental hygienist I
23 duties; and

24 (c) Has not engaged in unprofessional conduct or is not unable to
25 practice with reasonable skill and safety as a result of a physical or
26 mental impairment.

27 (2) Applications for licensure shall be submitted on forms provided
28 by the department. The department may require any information and
29 documentation necessary to determine if the applicant meets the

1 criteria for licensure as provided in this chapter and chapter 18.130
2 RCW. Each applicant shall pay a fee determined by the director as
3 provided in RCW 43.24.086. The fee shall be submitted with the
4 application.

5 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.29.045 and 1989 c 202 s 29 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 An applicant holding a valid license and currently engaged in
8 practice in another state may be granted a license without examination
9 required by this chapter, on the payment of any required fees, if the
10 director in consultation with the advisory committee determines that
11 the other state's licensing standards are substantively equivalent to
12 the standards in this state: PROVIDED, That the director in
13 consultation with the advisory committee may require the applicant to:
14 (1) File with the director documentation certifying the applicant is
15 licensed to practice in another state; and (2) provide information as
16 the director deems necessary pertaining to the conditions and criteria
17 of the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW and to demonstrate
18 to the director a knowledge of Washington law pertaining to the
19 practice of dental hygiene.

20 The provisions of this section and determination of substantive
21 equivalence shall be made separately as to the dental hygienist I
22 license and the dental hygienist II license.

23 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.29.050 and 1971 ex.s. c 235 s 1 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Any person licensed as a dental hygienist II in this state may
26 remove deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, may apply
27 topical preventive or prophylactic agents, may polish and smooth
28 restorations, may perform root planing and soft-tissue curettage, and

1 may perform other dental operations and services delegated to them by
2 a licensed dentist: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That licensed dental hygienists
3 II shall in no event perform the following dental operations or
4 services:

5 (1) Any surgical removal of tissue of the oral cavity;

6 (2) Any prescription of drugs or medications requiring the written
7 order or prescription of a licensed dentist or physician;

8 (3) Any diagnosis for treatment or treatment planning; or

9 (4) The taking of any impression of the teeth or jaw, or the
10 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating any
11 intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis.

12 ((Such)) Licensed dental hygienists II may perform dental
13 operations and services only under the supervision of a licensed
14 dentist, and under such supervision may be employed by hospitals,
15 boards of education of public or private schools, county boards, boards
16 of health, or public or charitable institutions, or in dental offices:
17 PROVIDED, That the number of hygienists so employed in any dental
18 office shall not exceed twice in number the licensed dentists
19 practicing therein.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Dental hygienist I licensees shall have
21 the same authority and scope of practice as dental hygienist II
22 licensees excluding any authority to:

23 (a) Give injections of a local anesthetic; or

24 (b) Place restorations into the cavity prepared by the dentist, and
25 thereafter to carve, contour, and adjust contacts and occlusion of the
26 restoration.

27 **Sec. 10.** RCW 18.29.060 and 1989 c 202 s 12 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

1 Upon passing an examination and meeting the requirements as
2 provided in RCW 18.29.021, the director of licensing shall issue to the
3 successful applicant ((a)) the appropriate license as dental hygienist
4 I or II. The license shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the
5 operation room where such licensee shall practice.

6 **Sec. 11.** RCW 18.29.130 and 1989 c 202 s 5 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 In addition to any other authority provided by law, the director
9 may:

10 (1) Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to
11 implement this chapter;

12 (2) Establish forms necessary to administer this chapter;

13 (3) Issue ((a)) the appropriate license to any applicant who has
14 met the education and examination requirements for licensure as dental
15 hygienist I or II and deny a license to applicants who do not meet the
16 minimum qualifications for licensure. Proceedings concerning the
17 denial of licenses based on unprofessional conduct or impaired practice
18 shall be governed by the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW;

19 (4) Employ clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as
20 needed to implement and administer this chapter and hire individuals,
21 including those licensed under this chapter, to serve as examiners or
22 consultants as necessary to implement and administer this chapter;

23 (5) Maintain the official departmental record of all applicants and
24 licensees;

25 (6) Establish, by rule, the minimum education requirements for
26 licensure, including but not limited to approval of educational
27 programs; and

28 (7) Establish and implement by rule a continuing education program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 5, and 9 of this act
2 are each added to chapter 18.29 RCW.