
SENATE BILL 5754

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Niemi, Moore and A. Smith.

Read first time February 19, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to constraint of trade for dental hygiene services;
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 present law
5 results in restricting the public's access to dental hygiene services
6 as defined in chapter 18.29 RCW, restricts competition between two
7 professions, and establishes a monopoly within the state of Washington
8 for persons licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. The legislature finds it
9 necessary to eliminate restrictions in current law to promote public
10 access to cost-effective and competitive dental hygiene services.

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

13 A dental hygienist licensed under this chapter, who has two years'
14 practical clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the

1 preceding five years, may perform dental hygiene services without the
2 supervision of a dentist. These services shall be limited to removal
3 of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, application of
4 topical preventive or prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing of
5 restorations, assessment and treatment planning for dental hygiene
6 services, injections of local anaesthetic agents for dental hygiene
7 treatment, and root planing and soft-tissue curettage. For dental
8 planing and dental treatment, dental hygienists shall refer patients to
9 licensed dentists.