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HOUSE BILL 1915

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Skinner, Murray, Thompson, Blalock, Cody and Costa

Read first time 02/13/97. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to removing regulatory barriers to the provision of  
2 oral health care services to rural, remote, and underserved  
3 populations; amending RCW 18.29.050 and 18.29.056; and repealing 1993  
4 c 323 s 6 (uncodified).

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

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

8            Any person licensed as a dental hygienist in this state may remove  
9 deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, may apply topical  
10 preventive or prophylactic agents, may polish and smooth restorations,  
11 may perform root planing and soft-tissue curettage, and may perform  
12 other dental operations and services delegated to them by a licensed  
13 dentist: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That licensed dental hygienists shall in no  
14 event perform the following dental operations or services:

- 15            (1) Any surgical removal of tissue of the oral cavity;  
16            (2) Any prescription of drugs or medications requiring the written  
17 order or prescription of a licensed dentist or physician;  
18            (3) Any diagnosis for treatment or treatment planning; or

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

4 Such licensed dental hygienists may perform dental operations and  
5 services only under the supervision of a licensed dentist, and under  
6 such supervision may be employed by hospitals, boards of education of  
7 public or private schools, county boards, boards of health, or public  
8 or charitable institutions, or in dental offices(~~(: PROVIDED, That the~~  
9 ~~number of hygienists so employed in any dental office shall not exceed~~  
10 ~~twice in number the licensed dentists practicing therein)~~).

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.29.056 and 1984 c 279 s 63 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 (1) Dental hygienists licensed under this chapter with two years'  
14 practical clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the  
15 preceding five years may be employed or retained by health care  
16 facilities to perform authorized dental hygiene operations and services  
17 without dental supervision, limited to removal of deposits and stains  
18 from the surfaces of the teeth, application of topical preventive or  
19 prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing restorations, and  
20 performance of root planing and soft-tissue curettage, but shall not  
21 perform injections of anesthetic agents, administration of nitrous  
22 oxide, or diagnosis for dental treatment. The performance of dental  
23 hygiene operations and services in health care facilities shall be  
24 limited to patients, students, and residents of the facilities. For  
25 dental planning and dental treatment, dental hygienists shall refer  
26 patients to licensed dentists.

27 (2) For the purposes of this section, "health care facilities" are  
28 limited to hospitals; nursing homes; home health agencies; group homes  
29 serving the elderly, handicapped, and juveniles; state-operated  
30 institutions under the jurisdiction of the department of social and  
31 health services or the department of corrections; and federal, state,  
32 and local public health facilities, community and migrant health  
33 centers, community clinics, and tribal clinics.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** 1993 c 323 s 6 (uncodified) is repealed.

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