

5323

Sponsor(s): Senators Deccio, Thibaudeau, Wood, Strannigan and Kohl

Brief Title: Certifying public health dental hygienists practicing among underserved populations.

**SB 5323 - DIGEST**

Creates a special public health certification for dental hygienists to provide access to these services to target populations.

Directs the department of health, in consultation with the University of Washington school of dentistry and upon approval of the higher education coordinating board, to develop an oral health assessment course of study to be required as additional training for licensed dental hygienists who apply for a dental hygienist public health certification.

Directs the secretary of health to review and make recommendations on the administration and operation of this act and report to the legislature by December 31, 1998, on the sufficiency of safeguards to protect the health and safety of patients and the effect on patient access to dental hygiene services and dental care.