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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5388**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio and Thibaudeau)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to the endorsement of school sealant endorsed  
2 dental hygienists; adding new sections to chapter 18.29 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that access to  
6 preventive and restorative oral health services by low-income children  
7 is currently restricted by complex regulatory, financial, cultural, and  
8 geographic barriers that have resulted in a large number of children  
9 suffering unnecessarily from dental disease. The legislature also  
10 finds that very early exposure to oral health care can reverse this  
11 disease in many cases, thereby significantly reducing costs of  
12 providing dental services to low-income populations.

13 It is the intent of the legislature to address the problem of poor  
14 access to oral health care by providing for school-based sealant  
15 programs through the endorsement of dental hygienists.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A dental hygienist licensed under this  
17 chapter may apply for endorsement by the department of health as a  
18 school sealant endorsed dental hygienist upon completion of the

1 Washington state sealant guidelines and training as developed or  
2 approved by the department of health. The secretary of health may  
3 adopt rules to implement sections 2 through 4 of this act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk  
5 populations and in coordination with local public health jurisdictions  
6 and local oral health coalitions, dental hygienists who are school  
7 sealant endorsed under section 2 of this act may assess for and apply  
8 sealants in public and private school-based, school-linked sealant  
9 programs.

10 (2) A dental hygienist endorsed under section 2 of this act shall  
11 refer in writing each sealant patient to a dentist for follow-up care.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The school sealant endorsement program  
13 will accept applications upon the establishment of the endorsement  
14 course by the secretary, or by July 1, 2000, whichever is sooner. The  
15 secretary of health may impose a fee for implementation of this section  
16 and sections 2 and 3 of this act.

17 (2) The department of health shall report to the legislature by  
18 December 1, 2003, on the impact of granting school sealant endorsements  
19 to dental hygienists to assess for and apply sealants in public and  
20 private school-based, school-linked sealant programs.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each  
22 added to chapter 18.29 RCW.

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