

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5504

As of February 2, 2001

Title: An act relating to licensed dental hygienists.

Brief Description: Allowing dental hygienists to provide preventive oral health services to low-income and functionally disabled persons.

Sponsors: Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, McAuliffe, Costa, Kohl-Welles, Fraser and Oke.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/5/01.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7198)

Background: Under current law, dental hygienists perform services that are within their scope of practice under the supervision of a dentist. However, there are specific settings where hygienists are authorized to perform certain procedures without dental supervision. These include hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, group homes, and state-operated institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social and Health Services or the Department of Corrections.

Summary of Bill: Licensed dental hygienists may perform certain procedures in any home and community program for functionally disabled persons receiving long-term care, and at any sites used to carry out health care programs authorized by federal, state, or local governments or tribal agencies.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 31, 2001.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.