
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6020

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to dental care; adding a new section to
2 chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.29 RCW; adding a
3 new section to chapter 18.32 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring
4 an emergency.

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

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

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

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 The secretary is authorized to create a school sealant endorsement
2 program for dental hygienists and dental assistants. The secretary of
3 health, in consultation with the dental quality assurance commission
4 and the dental hygiene examining committee, shall adopt rules to
5 implement this section.

6 (1) A dental hygienist licensed in this state after the effective
7 date of this act is eligible to apply for endorsement by the department
8 of health as a school sealant dental hygienist upon completion of the
9 Washington state school sealant endorsement program. While otherwise
10 authorized to act, currently licensed hygienists may still elect to
11 apply for the endorsement.

12 (2) A dental assistant employed after the effective date of this
13 act by a dentist licensed in this state, who has worked under dental
14 supervision for at least two hundred hours, is eligible to apply for
15 endorsement by the department of health as a school sealant dental
16 assistant upon completion of the Washington state school sealant
17 endorsement program. While otherwise authorized to act, currently
18 employed dental assistants may still elect to apply for the
19 endorsement.

20 (3) The department may impose a fee for implementation of this
21 section.

22 (4) The secretary shall provide a report to the legislature by
23 December 1, 2005, evaluating the outcome of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.29 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in
27 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral
28 health coalitions, a dental hygienist licensed in this state as of the
29 effective date of this act may assess for and apply sealants and apply
30 fluoride varnishes in community-based sealant programs carried out in
31 schools without attending the department's school sealant endorsement
32 program.

33 (2) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in
34 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral
35 health coalitions, dental hygienists who are school sealant endorsed
36 under section 2 of this act may assess for and apply sealants and
37 fluoride varnishes in community-based sealant programs carried out in
38 schools.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in
4 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral
5 health coalitions, a dental assistant working as of the effective date
6 of this act under the supervision of a licensed dentist may apply
7 sealants and fluoride varnishes under the general supervision of a
8 dentist in community-based sealant programs carried out in schools
9 without attending the department's school sealant endorsement program.

10 (2) For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in
11 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral
12 health coalitions, dental assistants who are school sealant endorsed
13 under section 2 of this act may apply sealants and fluoride varnishes
14 under the general supervision of a dentist in community-based sealant
15 programs carried out in schools.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 immediately.

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