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**Health Care Committee**

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**HB 1721**

**Brief Description:** Concerning dentistry.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Moeller, Boldt, Fromhold and Wallace.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows students in accredited state dental schools to practice dentistry in Washington under the supervision of a licensed dentist who is a faculty member at a dental school.

**Hearing Date:** 2/18/03

**Staff:** Chris Blake (786-7392).

**Background:**

Dental schools generally require a college degree for admission and last for four years. Study includes classroom instruction and laboratory work in the sciences as well as supervised treatment of patients during the last two years.

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission regulates the practice of dentistry in Washington. The practice of dentistry includes representing oneself as able to perform dental services, offering to perform dental services, operating an office for the practice of dentistry, or engaging in any practice that is included in dental school curricula. Unlicensed practice of dentistry is subject to penalties under the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

**Summary of Bill:**

An exception that allows the practice of dentistry by Washington dental students is broadened to include any student in an accredited state dental school approved by the Department of Health. The student may only practice under the direction and supervision of a dentist licensed in Washington who is a faculty member at a dental school.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.