
Health Care Committee

HB 1856

Brief Description: Modifying the composition of the Washington state dental quality assurance commission.

Sponsors: Representatives Skinner and Cody.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Increases the size of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission from 14 to 16 and requires that two members be dental hygienists.

Hearing Date: 2/25/03

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

In addition to the Secretary of the Department of Health's authority to regulate the 55 credentialed health care professions in Washington State, there are 16 boards and commissions that have responsibilities with regards to some of these professions. The practice of dentistry is regulated by the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (Commission). The Commission consists of 12 dentists and two representatives of the public. At least four of the dentists on the Commission must live and practice dentistry in Eastern Washington. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor to serve in four-year terms. They must be United States citizens and residents of Washington.

The Commission's responsibilities include coordinating examination preparation and administration; adopting licensure requirements; investigating complaints of unprofessional conduct; and issuing findings of unprofessional conduct and imposing sanctions for such violations.

Summary of Bill:

The number of members of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission is increased from 14 to 16. Two members are required to be dental hygienists.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 21, 2003.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.