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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5966**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

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

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1       AN ACT Relating to increasing the supply of dentists to meet the  
2 critical shortage of dental providers in this state and underserved  
3 areas; amending RCW 18.32.215; and creating a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that  
6 access to dental care is severely hampered by a critical and emergent  
7 shortage of dental providers in Washington state. Dental disease is an  
8 epidemic among poor children, the elderly, the disabled, and anyone who  
9 does not have access to adequate dental care. Dental decay is  
10 worsening among children under four years of age, with forty-one  
11 percent of the state's Headstart children needing treatment for dental  
12 decay. The lack of qualified dentists poses a serious and compelling  
13 threat to the oral health of the people of this state.

14       Shortages are also due to licensing restrictions that have  
15 discouraged qualified dentists from coming into this state. Increasing  
16 the number of dentists from other states and from military service  
17 would enable retiring dentists in this state to sell their practices to  
18 other qualified practitioners.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.32.215 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 219 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       An applicant holding a valid license and currently engaged in  
4 practice in another state may be granted a license without examination  
5 required by this chapter, on the payment of any required fees, if the  
6 ~~((commission determines that the other state's licensing standards are~~  
7 ~~substantively equivalent to the standards in this state)) applicant is  
8 a graduate of a dental college, school, or dental department of an  
9 institution approved by the commission under RCW 18.32.040(1). The  
10 commission may also require the applicant to: (1) File with the  
11 commission documentation certifying the applicant is licensed to  
12 practice in another state; and (2) provide information as the  
13 commission deems necessary pertaining to the conditions and criteria of  
14 the Uniform Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW, and to demonstrate to  
15 the commission a knowledge of Washington law pertaining to the practice  
16 of dentistry.~~

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