

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2463

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to dental licensure.

Brief Description: Modifying dental licensure provisions.

Sponsors: Representatives Moeller and Morrell.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 1/24/06, 1/27/06 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Defines exceptions to dental licensing requirements and the practice of dentistry.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Appleton, Bailey, Clibborn, Condotta, Green, Lantz, Moeller, Schual-Berke and Skinner.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The practice of dentistry is regulated by the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (Commission). The Commission's responsibilities include coordinating examinations, adopting licensing requirements, investigating complaints of unprofessional conduct, and issuing findings of unprofessional conduct and imposing sanctions for those violations.

Applicants for a license to practice dentistry are required to: (1) show proof of graduation from a dental program approved by the Commission; (2) submit a recent picture; and (3) pass an examination approved by the Commission. The Washington Administrative Code specifies that the examination requirement is met by passing the written examination offered by the National Board and the practical examination offered by the Western Regional Examining Board. The examination requirement may be waived if the applicant holds a license to practice dentistry in another state, is currently engaged in practice in that state, and has graduated from a dental school approved by the Commission.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

It is specified that an applicant for a license to practice dentistry without examination who was licensed in another state prior to Washington's requirement to take the National Board Dental Examination is not required to take and pass that examination. The term "currently engaged in practice" is defined to mean that the person must have engaged in clinical practice for at least 288 hours per year for two of the three years prior to applying for the license.

It is specified that the exception from the practice of dentistry that applies to dental students acting under the direction of dental school faculty who are licensed in Washington applies to students who practice under a dentist who is licensed in Washington and is a member of a dental school faculty.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The substitute bill removes the exception from taking the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) that applies if the dentist graduated from a dental school prior to the creation of the NBDE and allows the exception for dentists who were licensed in another state prior to Washington's requirements to take the NBDE.

Appropriation: None.**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.**Testimony For:** This bill will allow out-of-state students to come to Washington with their faculty to serve Washington residents while they train for their profession. This bill will allow dentists who had been in practice prior to the offering of the National Board Dental Examination to obtain a license more easily in Washington.**Testimony Against:** None.**Persons Testifying:** Linda Hull, Washington State Dental Association.**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.