

SB 6419-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Declares an intent to address the problem of access to preventive oral health care services by providing five pilot projects that allow dental hygienists to practice within the current scope of practice without the supervision of a dentist.

Provides that dental hygienists participating in the pilot projects shall not perform injections of anesthetic agents, administer nitrous oxide, or give a diagnosis for dental treatment.

Directs the secretary of health to establish a task force to recommend ways to improve oral health services to dentally underserved children and adults in Washington state. The task force shall provide a report with recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2009. Task force membership shall include representation from the department of health, board of health, Washington state dental hygienists association, Washington state dental association, and local health authorities from dentally underserved regions of the state.