
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 2540

Brief Description: Concerning the practice of dentistry.

Sponsors: Representatives Cody, Pedersen, Nelson, Kenney and Morrell.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the expiration date from provisions relating to licensing dentists from other states.

Hearing Date: 1/12/10

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

Prior to 2008 a dentist licensed in another state could become licensed in Washington if he or she graduated from a dental school approved by the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (DQAC). The DQAC approved, by rule, all dental schools accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). If the applicant graduated from a school that was not approved by the CODA or listed by the World Health Organization, he or she had to complete at least two additional years of pre-doctoral or post-doctoral dental education prior to licensure in Washington.

In 2008 the Legislature created an alternate means for out-of-state dentists to be licensed. This legislation allowed an applicant to be licensed if he or she practiced in another state for at least four years and completes a one-year postdoctoral residency approved by the DQAC. The residency may have been completed outside of Washington. These provisions expire on July 1, 2010.

As part of the legislation creating the alternative means of licensure, the DQAC was required to recommend appropriate standards for issuing a license to a foreign-trained dentist. In December

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2009 the DQAC issued its report, which recommended continuing the licensing standards created in 2008.

Summary of Bill:

The expiration date on the licensing standards created in 2008 is eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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