

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2540

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to repealing the expiration date for provisions relating to the licensure of dentists from other states.

Brief Description: Concerning the practice of dentistry.

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

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 1/12/10, 1/15/10 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Driscoll, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller and Pedersen.

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.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

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 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.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will help address dental shortages in our state and is consistent with recommendations from the DQAC. This issue should be re-examined by the Legislature to make sure that the goal of serving underserved areas is being met.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Cody, prime sponsor; Janice Palm; David Hemim, Washington State Department of Agriculture; and Karen Jensen, Dental Quality Assurance Commission.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.