
HOUSE BILL 1680

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2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Richards, Caldier, Simmons, Walen, Zahn, Goodman, Eslick, Hunt, Reed, Nance, Hill, Macri, and Timmons

Read first time 01/29/25. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving access to patient care by increasing
2 preventive dental care; amending RCW 18.260.040 and 18.260.090; and
3 adding new sections to chapter 18.260 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.260
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The commission shall issue a license to practice as an oral
8 preventive assistant to any applicant who:

9 (1) Pays any applicable fees as established by the secretary in
10 accordance with RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250;

11 (2) Submits, on forms provided by the secretary, the applicant's
12 name, address, and other applicable information as determined by the
13 secretary; and

14 (3) Demonstrates successful completion of oral preventive
15 assistant training approved by the commission with consultation from
16 the dental hygiene examining committee as defined in RCW 18.29.110.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.260
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the scope of
2 oral preventive assistant services that may be performed by oral
3 preventive assistants under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

4 (2) The scope of oral preventive assistant services that the
5 commission identifies in subsection (1) of this section must include:

6 (a) Dental assisting services that a dental assistant may perform
7 under the supervision of a licensed dentist;

8 (b) Periodontal probing after initial probing by a dentist or
9 dental hygienist and diagnosis by a dentist; and

10 (c) Dental prophylaxis for patients in a healthy oral state as
11 defined by the commission with consultation from the dental hygiene
12 examining committee as defined in RCW 18.29.110.

13 (3) A dentist may not assign an oral preventive assistant to
14 perform services until the oral preventive assistant has demonstrated
15 skills necessary to competently perform all assigned duties and
16 responsibilities.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.260.040 and 2023 c 460 s 17 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1)(a) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the scope of
20 dental assisting services related to patient care and laboratory
21 duties that may be performed by dental assistants.

22 (b) In addition to the services and duties authorized by the
23 rules adopted under (a) of this subsection, a dental assistant may
24 apply topical anesthetic agents.

25 (c) All dental services performed by dental assistants under (a)
26 or (b) of this subsection must be performed under the close
27 supervision of a supervising dentist or supervising dental therapist
28 as the dentist or dental therapist may allow, except for the
29 procedures involving sterilization of dental instruments or
30 equipment, which may be performed under general supervision.

31 (2) In addition to any other limitations established by the
32 commission, dental assistants may not perform the following
33 procedures:

34 (a) Any scaling procedure;

35 (b) Any oral prophylaxis, except coronal polishing;

36 (c) Administration of any general or local anesthetic, including
37 intravenous sedation;

38 (d) Any removal of or addition to the hard or soft tissue of the
39 oral cavity;

1 (e) Any diagnosis of or prescription for treatment of disease,
2 pain, deformity, deficiency, injury, or physical condition of the
3 human teeth, jaw, or adjacent structures; and

4 (f) The taking of any impressions of the teeth or jaw or the
5 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating
6 any intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis, other than
7 impressions allowed as a delegated duty for dental assistants
8 pursuant to rules adopted by the commission.

9 (3) A dentist or dental therapist may not assign a dental
10 assistant to perform duties until the dental assistant has
11 demonstrated skills necessary to perform competently all assigned
12 duties and responsibilities.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.260.090 and 2007 c 269 s 8 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The commission shall issue an initial credential or renewal
16 credential to an applicant who has met the requirements for a
17 credential or deny an initial credential or renewal credential based
18 upon failure to meet the requirements for a credential or
19 unprofessional conduct or impairment governed by chapter 18.130 RCW.

20 (2) The commission may adopt rules for renewal requirements for a
21 credential, including continuing education requirements, for oral
22 preventive assistants and expanded function dental auxiliary
23 licenses.

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