

## **Bills into Law 2017**

### **Georgia – House Bill 154**

*Effective Date 01/01/2018*

HB 154 allows the public to directly access the oral health services of dental hygienists who are now able to practice under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in certain settings. This law allows a licensed dental hygienist to apply topical fluoride, perform the application of sealants, and oral prophylaxis under general supervision in safety-net settings. These safety-net settings include hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, health facilities operated by federal, state, county, or local governments, hospices, family violence shelters, free health clinics, and Title I schools.

In Title I school settings, licensed dental hygienists may provide oral hygiene instruction and counseling as well as apply topical fluoride and perform the application of sealants and oral prophylaxis under general supervision, with written permission of the student's parent or guardian.

School settings shall include only schools that are Title I schools under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, schools in which at least 65 percent of the student population is eligible for free or reduced price lunch under federal guidelines, Head Start programs, and Georgia's Pre-K Program.

### **Maine – Legislative Document 1085**

*Became Law 06/07/2017*

This legislation removes statutory barriers that currently prevents or delays certain dental hygienists from obtaining the authority to open independent practices in Maine. Specifically, this law removes the separate requirements for the years of practice required for applicants who have an associate or bachelor's degree. If you have 2,000 hours of clinical practice you can now apply for an independent practice dental hygienist license with no restriction on the number of years in practice. Initially, this bill was vetoed by the Governor. The Maine legislature overrode the Governor's veto and the bill became law.

### **Minnesota – House File 1712**

*Became Law 05/15/2017*

HF 1712 modifies the requirements for collaborative community dental hygiene services and establishes requirements for collaborative community dental assisting services.

Collaborative dental practice agreements between licensed dentists and dental hygienists authorize dental hygienists employed by a health care facility, program, or nonprofit organization to perform preventive oral health services without an initial examination by a dentist. This bill modifies and clarifies some of the requirements for dental hygienist collaborative practice including:

- Removing hour requirements and specific CPR certification
- Requiring completion of medical emergency course within continuing education cycle

- Specifying recordkeeping procedures and process for making referrals for additional dental services

### **Montana – Senate Bill 120**

*Became Law 05/05/2017*

SB 120 allows topical agent prescriptions by dental hygienists for fluoride agents, oral anesthetics, and nonsystemic oral antimicrobials. Furthermore, SB 120 revises dentist supervision requirements for the administration of local anesthetics by dental hygienists from direct supervision to general supervision.

### **Nebraska – Legislative Bill 18**

*Became Law 03/29/2017*

LB 18 establishes and defines an expanded function dental hygienist as a licensed dental hygienist who has met certain requirements. Upon completion of education and testing approved by the board and when authorized by and under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a licensed dental hygienist may write prescriptions for mouth rinses and fluoride products that help decrease the risk for tooth decay. Additionally, a licensed dental hygienist may administer and titrate nitrous oxide analgesia under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist.

Any licensed dentist, public institution, or school may employ licensed dental hygienists and expanded function dental hygienists.

An expanded function dental hygienist may perform all the procedures authorized for a licensed dental hygienist. Furthermore, an expanded function dental hygienist may, under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist, place (1) restorative level one simple restorations (one surface) and (2) restorative level two complex restorations (multiple surfaces).

### **Texas – House Bill 2007**

*Became Law 05/29/2017*

HB 2007 allows the Texas Dental Board to issue a limited volunteer license to military dentists and dental hygienists who provide voluntary charity dental or dental hygiene care.

### **Virginia – House Bill 1474**

*Became Law 03/13/2017*

This bill amends the Remote Supervision Public Health Model for the dental hygienists in Virginia by:

- Eliminating the requirement that a dental hygienist providing dental hygiene services under remote supervision be employed by the supervising dentist
- Clarifying continuing education requirements for dental hygienists practicing under remote supervision
- Eliminating the requirement for written permission to treat a patient from a dentist who has treated the patient in the previous 12 months
- Allowing a dental hygienist practicing under remote supervision to treat a patient who provides verbal confirmation that he does not have a dentist of record whom he is seeing regularly

- Eliminating the requirement that a dental hygienist practicing under remote supervision consult with the supervising dentist prior to providing further dental hygiene services if the patient is medically compromised or has periodontal disease
- Requiring a supervising dentist who conducts the examination of the patient or refers the patient to another dentist for examination following the 90-day period during which a dental hygienist is permitted to provide dental hygiene services under remote supervision to develop a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient

### **Washington – Senate Bill 5079**

*Became Law 07/23/2017*

In Washington State, Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) are authorized to work under the supervision of a dentist to provide prophylaxis, place fillings, and educate patients about oral health and disease prevention. DHATs are limited to practicing on state tribal lands pursuant to a written standing order by a supervising dentist. DHATs are defined as a person who has met the training and education requirements, and satisfies other conditions, to be certified as a dental health aide therapist by a federal community health aide program certification board or by a federally recognized Indian tribe that has adopted certification standards that meet or exceed the requirements of a federal community health aide program certification board.

### **Wisconsin – Assembly Bill 146**

*Became Law 06/21/2017*

AB 146 allows dental hygienists to practice in additional direct access settings without the authorization and supervision of a licensed dentist. Those settings include, but are not limited to, federal, state, county, or municipal correctional or detention facilities and facilities established to provide care for terminally ill patients, nonprofit home health care agencies, nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and adult day care centers.

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*The bills enacted into law are a sample of state legislation that has passed during the active legislation session. As an advocate for oral health, it is important to stay informed so that you can continue to provide the public with the best care possible. More information is available on ADHA's Members-Only site, under "Advocacy".*