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DENTAL HYGIENIST BOARD

House Bill 4882
Sponsor: Rep. Terry London
Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 8-1-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4882 AS INTRODUCED 5-18-95

Currently, the board of dentistry regulates dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists. The board consists of thirteen voting members: seven dentists, two dental hygienists, two dental assistants, and two public members. House Bill 4882 would amend the Public Health Code to create a board of dental hygiene, separate from the board of dentistry. (The terms of the dental hygienists currently serving on the Michigan Board of Dentistry would expire on the effective date of the bill.) The bill also would explicitly add that boards or task forces couldn't promulgate rules that modified (expanded or constricted) the scope of practice definition for the health profession governed by that board or task force. Finally, the bill would increase the number of public members on the board of dentistry by two, for a total of four public members.

The Michigan Board of Dental Hygiene. The bill would create a nine-member board of dental hygiene, consisting of five dental hygienists and four public members. Board meeting times would have to be agreed to by a vote of at least five board members.

The board would issue dental hygienist's licenses only to individuals who had graduated from a nationally-accredited, board-approved two-year dental hygiene program. A dental hygienist's license would be valid until its expiration date, and would be renewed if the applicant met all of the conditions for renewal.

Administrative rules. Unless amended or rescinded by the board of hygiene, rules promulgated by the Board of Dentistry pertaining to the practice of dental hygiene would remain in effect. After the bill took effect, the board of hygiene would enforce rules described in the bill.

Practice of dental hygiene. The bill would keep the current health code definition of "practice as a dental hygienist" as "practice at the assignment of a dentist in that specific area of dentistry based on specialized knowledge, formal education, and skill, with particular emphasis on preventive services and oral health education." ("Assignment" means that a dentist has designated a patient of record for certain services described by the dentist.)

The bill would prohibit the practice (or the alternative practice) of dental hygiene without a license, and would restrict "deep scaling, root planing, and the removal of calcareous deposits" to licensed dentists and licensed dental hygienists. The bill also would require dental hygienists to comply with infection control standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the Michigan Occupational Safety and

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Health Administration and approved by the board. Dental hygienists would be prohibited from discriminating against, refusing, denying, or withholding professional services from people infected with hepatitis B or by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Alternative practice of dental hygiene. The bill would define the "alternative practice of dental hygiene" as it currently is defined in the health code. That is, currently a dental hygienist can perform dental hygiene services under the supervision of a dentist as part of a program for dentally underserved populations in Michigan conducted by local, state, or federal grantee agencies for patients who weren't assigned by a dentist. (The code further specifies the conditions under which the DPH can designate someone as a grantee health agency for a two-year period.)

MCL 333.16131 et al.