



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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MIGRANT DENTAL HYGIENE

House Bill 4699

**Sponsor: Rep. Michael J. Bennane
Committee: Public Health**

Complete to 5-7-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4699 AS INTRODUCED 4-16-91

Under the Public Health Code, dental hygienists may practice only at the "assignment" of a dentist, that is, only upon a patient whom a dentist has designated a patient of record and for whom the dentist has described the procedures the hygienist is to perform. The code also allows the Board of Dentistry to promulgate rules to restrict the practice of dental hygienists to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

The bill would amend the code to allow dental hygienists to provide dental hygiene services for patients who were not "assigned" by a dentist if the services were part of a program for "dentally underserved populations" and if the program was conducted by a governmental (local, state, or federal) "grantee health agency."

Upon application, the director of the Department of Public Health could appoint, for two-year terms, "grantee health agencies." A designated agency would have to meet the following requirements:

- * It was a public or nonprofit agency administering a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population;
- * it got at least eighty percent of its total revenue from public or nonprofit organization sources;
- * it employed (or contracted with) at least one dentist and one dental hygienist;
- * it was not associated with a private dental practice or incorporated dental service provider whose only source of state or federal reimbursement was the medical assistance program administered by the Department of Social Services; and
- * it submitted a program overview that described the population to be served, the method of providing the service, and how the program would be directed and overseen.

The director of the Department of Public Health could appoint an advisory committee to help designate grantee health agencies. The committee would have to include, at a minimum, representatives from the Michigan Dental Hygienist Association and the Michigan Dental Association (or their successor organizations).

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