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## DENTAL HYGIENE BOARD

House Bill 4657

Sponsor: Rep. Tracey Yokich

Committee: Public Health

Complete to 9-17-93

### A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4657 AS INTRODUCED 2-27-93

Currently, under the Public Health Code, the Board of Dentistry governs dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. The bill would amend the health code to create a separate board, the Michigan Board of Dental Hygiene, to govern dental hygienists in the state.

The Michigan Board of Dental Hygiene. The bill would create a five-member board of dental hygiene, consisting of three dental hygienists and two public members. (The board members would have to meet the general requirements for health profession board members set forth in the health code, and would be, like members of other boards, appointed by the governor for four-year terms.) Board meeting times would have to be agreed to by a vote of at least three board members.

The board issue a dental hygienist's licenses only to individuals who had graduated from a nationally-accredited, board-approved two-year dental hygiene program.

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 Unless amended or rescinded by the board of hygiene, rules promulgated by the Board of Dentistry pertaining to the practice of dental hygiene would remain in effect.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. Currently, the health code defines "practice as a dental hygienist" to mean "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 assigned a patient of record for certain services described by the dentist.) This definition would be deleted from the code and replaced by a definition of the "practice of dental hygiene," which would mean "the science and practice of the prevention and treatment of oral disease through the provision of educational, clinical, and therapeutic services under assignment." The definition would keep the existing definition of "assignment," but would add that the assigning dentist wouldn't have to be physically present in the office or treatment room when a dental hygienist performed the assigned services. "The practice of dental hygiene" would include, but not be limited to: cleaning teeth (including applying surface agents "essential to complete a prophylaxis"), root planing, polishing and contouring restorations, applying anticariogenic (that is, anti-tooth decay) agents, charting the inside of the mouth with X-rays, preliminary examinations, applying topical (surface) anesthetics prescribed by a dentist, placing and removing certain dressings, measuring for orthodontic procedures, removing excess cement from tooth surfaces, providing nutritional counseling

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for oral health, applying board-approved emergency procedures, removing stitches, and soft tissue curettage (scraping).

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 and approved by the board (or other infection control guidelines promulgated or approved by the board). Dental hygienists would be prohibited from discriminating against, refusing, denying, or withholding professional services from HIV-infected individuals.

Alternative practice of dental hygiene. The bill would define the "alternative practice of dental hygiene" to mean the practice of dental hygiene, with the board's approval and in compliance with the board's rules, under the supervision of a licensed dentist in one or more of the following settings:

- \* programs for "dentally underserved populations" conducted by a health agency that received direct financial support from the state or federal government;
- \* as a staff member of a licensed health facility or agency; or
- \* in the residences of homebound people, upon authorization by a dentist or physician, for dental hygiene services.

MCL 333.16131 et al.