

DENTAL SPECIALTIES

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House Bill 4067 as enacted

Public Act 12 of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Ben Frederick

House Committee: Health Policy

Senate Committee: Health Policy and Human Services

Complete to 7-19-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4067 amends two sections of Part 166 (Dentistry) of the Public Health Code to account for specialized dental professions.

Section 16608 allows the Michigan Board of Dentistry¹ to issue specialty field licenses to dentists with advanced training. In addition to current specialty fields, the bill adds the following:

- Oral medicine.
- Orofacial pain.
- Dental public health.
- Oral and maxillofacial radiology.
- Dental anesthesiology.

Section 16605 prohibits unauthorized people from using the words “dentist,” “dental hygienist,” or other such terms, except as prescribed in the code. The bill adds “oral and maxillofacial radiologist,” “dental anesthesiologist,” “oral medicine doctor,” “public health dentist,” and “orofacial pain specialist” to this list of protected terms.

Recognition of the additional specialty fields and protection of their usage will take effect September 1, 2022.

MCL 333.16605 and 333.16608

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to committee testimony, Michigan currently recognizes only seven of the 12 nationally recognized dental specialties. The bill will include the remaining five in statute, including oral medicine² and orofacial pain,³ which were added to the list of dental specialties recognized by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards in 2020. The specialties require an additional master’s degree beyond dental school.

¹ https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90501_90626-250270--,00.html

² [Oral medicine recognized as a dental specialty \(ada.org\)](https://www.ada.org)

³ [ADA Recognizes Orofacial Pain as Dentistry’s Twelfth Specialty | Dentistry Today](#)

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4067 would be unlikely to have a significant fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) or on other units of state or local government. LARA indicated that there would be indeterminate costs incurred for information technology adjustments and for developing the licensure process. However, the costs associated with these activities would not likely be significant and would likely be sufficiently absorbed by existing department appropriations. The bill would result in increased fee revenue to the Health Professions Regulatory Fund (a state restricted fund that is used for implementing and administering articles 7, 8, and 15 of the Public Health Code), to the extent that individuals seeking licensure as provided in this bill would be liable for various licensing fees. It is unclear how increased fee revenues would compare with departmental expenditures associated with this bill. Dentists choosing to pursue the licenses created under the bill would be liable for the following fees based on FY 2020-21 fee levels:

| Fee Type | Fee Amount |
|---|-------------------|
| Application Processing Fee | \$25.50 |
| License Examination Fee (Complete Exam) | \$306.00 |
| License Examination Fee (Per Part) | \$102.00 |
| Annual License Fee | \$20.40 |
| Limited License Annual Fee | \$51.00 |

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.