

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 408
Version:	CCR
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Bill Analysis

SB 408 defines “teledentistry” as the remote delivery of dental patient care via telecommunications and other technology for the exchange of clinical information and images for dental consultation, preliminary treatment planning and patient monitoring. The measure also adds the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments to the list of entities the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry may accept examinations from and provides that the Board may make allowances in requirements of all candidates for licensure and issue temporary licenses for extended periods of time or as needed if government officials declared a health pandemic through a resolution. The resolution shall have a beginning and an end date and shall automatically expire no less than 30 days after the end of the disaster is declared by governmental officials.

The measure modifies the continuing education hours required for oral maxillofacial surgery assistants from 12 hours to 8 hours of continuing education and requires such courses to be taken every 2 years instead of every 3 years. Publishing papers, presenting clinics, and lecturing shall also qualify as 6 credited hours. The measure provides that Residents and Fellows with a valid permit may supervise student dental clinics under the authority of the Dean or Associate Dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry. The measure adds the practices of dental anesthesiology, oral medicine, and orofacial pain as specialties that may be licensed by the Board.

The measure consolidates the unprofessional conduct sections for dental hygienists. SB 408 requires the patient record to include documentation of any medications prescribed, administered, or dispensed to the patient. Additionally, the measure establishes the required content of continuing education courses provided to dentists and dental hygienists and provides for such courses to be taken online. The measure also extends the period a laboratory prescription may remain active from 3 years to 7 years and authorizes dentists to refer patients to a lab in order for the patient to select the shading or matching shades of a prosthetic device being prepared for the dentist to deliver to the patient.

CCR Changes

The Conference Committee Report for SB 408 adds language relating to publishing papers, teaching classes, and lecturing providing credit for a licensee’s continuing education. The CCR also provides language relating to issuing temporary licenses for extended periods of time during a pandemic.