

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1929
Version:	ENGR
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Hasenbeck
Date:	3/26/2024
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

Engrossed Senate Bill 1929 alters the definition of "accredited dental assisting program or class," allowing any class approved by the Board of Dentistry to qualify. The measure requires the Board to recognize organizations that establish care standards other than those of the American Dental Association.

The measure permits licensed dental hygienists to perform therapeutic laser procedures after two years of practice, provided they were licensed before January 30, 2024. The special volunteer license issued to certain hygienists is also expanded to include those on active duty, who will receive a license for the duration of their tour of duty.

Active-duty hygienists are exempt from continuing education requirements if they have served full-time as dentists or hygienists for at least 18 months within a two-year cycle, or if they are licensed dentists or hygienists serving in the Reserves or National Guard and actively deployed outside the U.S. for a minimum of 18 months.

The measure also allows out-of-state dentists with an active license in good standing in another state to obtain a license for the purpose of participating in a continuing education class that includes live patient treatment as part of the training program.

The expanded duty permits for phlebotomy and venipuncture for dental and oral maxillofacial surgery assistants are separated into two distinct permits. Dentists are required to report any instance of a licensee practicing while impaired or in a state of physical or mental health that poses a threat to patient care within 72 hours. Reporting dentists are immune from civil or criminal liability for such reports.

Finally, licensees can petition the Board to reopen and withdraw an order after 7 years from its issuance in certain circumstances. A panel is assigned to review and investigate the issues causing the order, changes to the law, and actions taken by the licensee to improve their abilities, patient outcomes, and service to the community. The panel and president may dismiss the case if they determine it is inappropriate to bring it before the Board.

Prepared By: Matthew Brenchley

Fiscal Analysis

SB 1929 expands the power of the Board of Dentistry, allowing the Board to define the scope of practice for dental professionals and licensees, as recommended by the American Dental Association or any other nationally recognized medical and dental association.

The Board of Dentistry is a non-appropriated state agency, therefore, the provisions of this measure are assumed to be objective within the department's existing resources. As a result, this measure is not anticipated to have a direct fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Alexandra Ladner, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.