

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1929
Version:	CS
Request No.:	3537
Author:	Sen. Kidd
Date:	03/01/2024

Bill Analysis

SB 1929 modifies “accredited dental assisting program or class” as it relates to the practice of dentistry to include any class approved by the Board of Dentistry. The measure also authorizes the Board to recognize other organizations setting standards of care other than the American Dental Association. The measure provides that a dental hygienist licensed prior to January 30, 2024, shall qualify for the advanced procedure of therapeutic use of lasers after two years of practice. The measure expands the special volunteer license issued to certain hygienists to include hygienists who are on active duty.

Active duty special volunteers shall receive a license for the duration of their tour of duty. The measure also exempts active duty hygienists from continuing education requirements if he or she is currently on full-time active duty service as a dentist or hygienist for a minimum of 18 months in a 2-year continuing education cycle or a licensed dentist or hygienist serving in the Reserves or the National Guard that is actively deployed outside of the United States for a minimum of 18 months.

The measure authorizes the issuance of licenses to an out-of-state dentist with an active license in good standing in another state for the purpose of participating in a continuing education class that includes live patient treatment as a part of the training program. The measure separates the expanded duty permit of phlebotomy and venipuncture for dental assistants and oral maxillofacial surgery assistants into two distinct expanded duty permits.

The measure requires dentists to notify the Board within 72 hours of witness or belief of a licensee practicing while impaired or in a state of physical or mental health that constitutes a threat to patient care, and makes the reporting dentist immune from civil or criminal liability for such reports.

The measure authorizes licensees to petition the Board to reopen and withdraw an order after the expiration of 7 years from the date of issue in certain circumstances. The Board shall then assign a panel for review and investigation, taking into consideration the issues causing the order, changes to law, actions by the licensee to better his or her abilities, patient outcomes, and service to his or her community. The panel and president may summarily dismiss the case if they determine that the case is not appropriate to bring before the Board.

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