

ADS 2005 Legislative Issues

House Bill 211 -- Fact Sheet

Bill # & Title: HB-211 "Dental Board Sunset Review"
Bill Sponsor: **Rep. (Mike Kelly)**, Fairbanks
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Purpose of bill:

This bill makes changes to the Dental Practice Law that will:

- ① **allow** the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners to **more expeditiously** approve licenses for **qualified new dental school graduates** who want to practice in Alaska. The changes in the bill will allow the board to **delegate** the performance of routine administrative functions to **appropriate, board designated**, staff within the Division of Occupational Licensing.
- ② **Enhance** the Alaska **Board** of Dental Examiners **authority to authorize** a dental hygiene license to **qualified applicants** under the existing "Licensure by credentials" criteria.
- ③ **Grant** the Alaska **Board** of Dental Examiners the **authority to "supervise an informal and confidential chemical dependency intervention program."**
And,
- ④ makes administrative **changes** to the "Dental radiological equipment" provision of the Dental Practice Law **necessary for a timely renewal process.**

Why needed:

- ① The present requirements commonly result in **long delays** from the time a **qualified applicant**, who has recently graduated from dental school, can receive their Alaska license and **begin practicing** in the state. The **Alaska Dental Society** has worked with the **Alaska Board of Dental Examiners** and the **Division of Occupational Licensing** to **achieve consensus** on these issues and to ensure that the process **continues to provide** first and foremost for the **safety and well being of the public.**
- ② The present requirements can cause **undue delay for fully qualified applicants** to become licensed, primarily because certain actions that can **appropriately be delegated** to a staff person are restricted to be done at quarterly board meetings. The **Alaska Dental Society** has worked with the **Board of Dental Examiners and the Alaska State Dental Hygiene Association** for **consensus** of all parties affected.
- ③ The Alaska **Board of Dental Examiners** is **one of the few** dental regulatory boards in the nation that **does not have the authority to refer dentists and**

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hygienists to participate in a **monitored program** for individuals that are either identified as having an **alcohol or chemical dependency problem**. The effectiveness of these types of programs at getting individuals who suffer from alcohol or chemical dependency of getting assistance **before they harm patients** or family members is greatly **enhanced** when **voluntary enlistment** is included. **The Alaska Dental Society** has worked with the **Board of Dental Examiners and the Division of Occupational Licensing** in developing a **consensus on the appropriateness** of granting the dental board this authority.

- ④ The original legislation inadvertently contained a provision that would require all machines in the state to be inspected during the same calendar year. The **original intent** was to have machines inspected once every five years, with a **rotational initial inspection** so that each machine would be inspected within on the fifth year. This provision corrects the bill to reflect the original intent and implementation of **effective and sustainable ongoing inspections**.

Supported by:

**Alaska Dental Society,
Alaska State Dental Hygiene Association,
Alaska Board of Dental Examiners,
Division of Occupational Licensing**

Opposed by:

Its supporters are aware of no groups or organizations that are opposed to, or can be expected to oppose this legislation.