



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Synopsis of House Committee Amendments*

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Sub. S.B. 259

132nd General Assembly
(H. Health)

Dental assistants, dental hygienists, and expanded function dental auxiliaries

Adds to the Senate-passed version the following changes to existing law:

-- Authorizes a dental hygienist or expanded function dental auxiliary (EFDA) to perform additional services for an unlimited period of time when a supervising dentist is not physically present.

-- Authorizes a dental hygienist or EFDA to apply silver diamine fluoride after a dentist's examination if the dentist has diagnosed a need for the treatment and the hygienist or EFDA has completed a related State Dental Board-approved course.

-- Excludes silver diamine fluoride from the types of desensitizing agents that a dental assistant may apply.

-- Reduces to one year (from two years) and 1,500 (from 3,000) hours the experience required before a dental assistant or EFDA is authorized to provide certain services when the supervising dentist is not physically present.

Teledentistry

Adds to the Senate-passed version of the bill all of the following changes to current law:

-- Authorizes teledentistry (the delivery of dental services through the use of synchronous, real-time communication and the delivery of services by a dental hygienist or EFDA pursuant to a dentist's authorization).

-- Requires a dentist performing and authorizing teledentistry services to obtain a permit from the Dental Board and specifies requirements a dentist, dental hygienist, or EFDA must meet before authorizing or performing teledentistry services.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the House Floor.

-- Prohibits certain insurers from denying coverage for teledentistry services if the services would be covered if delivered other than through teledentistry.

-- Requires the Department of Medicaid to establish standards for Medicaid payments that provide coverage for teledentistry services that is comparable to coverage for services provided without the use of teledentistry.

Other dental law changes

Adds to the Senate-passed version of the bill provisions that revise existing law governing general anesthesia permits and dental licensing exams.

Dental scholarships

Adds to the Senate-passed version of the bill a requirement that Ohio's dental schools develop a proposal to award scholarships to dental students under the existing Choose Ohio First scholarship program.

Oral Health Access Supervision Program

Adds to the Senate-passed version of the bill a provision that permits a dental hygienist to provide dental hygiene services when no dentist is present under the Oral Health Access Supervision Program in a circumstance not permitted under current law: when the hygienist is employed by an entity that also employs the dentist who authorizes the hygienist.