

HB 970 -- LICENSING OF DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

SPONSOR: Portwood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding the practice of dentistry.
The bill:

(1) Allows for the practice of dentistry across state lines, as long as the person practicing across state lines is licensed to practice dentistry in another state and the practice is limited to the rendering of documented opinions concerning diagnosis and treatment through electronic means. When receiving consultations across state lines, the ultimate authority and responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of the patient remains with the primary care dentist licensed in this state;

(2) Authorizes the State Dental Board to issue specialist licenses without examination to applicants who have been certified in any specialty by an examining board recognized by the American Dental Association or the Council on Dental Accreditation;

(3) Allows for issuance of specialized licenses for dentists who hold specialty licenses in other states, as long as they are licensed in this state and the educational requirements for their specialized licenses are the same or exceed those in this state;

(4) Gives the board the authority to create specialization committees for each specialty recognized by the American Dental Association. The committees will assist the board in establishing criteria and evaluating applicants for specialty licenses;

(5) Requires that all specialty licenses be subject to sanctions and licensees pay fees as set by the board;

(6) Requires all dentists and dental hygienists to complete all continuing education requirements prior to license renewal. Failing to do so, without reasonable cause, will result in the license being sanctioned by the board;

(7) Requires all dentists and dental hygienists who have allowed their licenses to lapse for more than four years to make application and take all licensing examinations required by the board; and

(8) Specifies the disposition of complaints brought before the

Administrative Hearing Commission by the board regarding licensees who present a clear and present danger to the health and safety of the public at large.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is good for the profession and the public. It gives the State Dental Board authority to allow for specialty licenses and permit the practice of dentistry across state lines. It also updates language regarding licensing renewal, misconduct, and continuing education.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; State Dental Board; and Missouri Dental Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst