AN ACT

Extending the termination date of the Board of Dental Examiners; and relating to dentists and dental hygienists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1
AN ACT

Extending the termination date of the Board of Dental Examiners; and relating to dentists and dental hygienists.

* Section 1. AS 08.03.010(c)(7) is amended to read:

(7) Board of Dental Examiners (AS 08.36.010) - June 30, 2011 [2005];

* Sec. 2. AS 08.32.030 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.32.030. Licensure by credentials. The board may provide for the licensing without examination of a dental hygienist who

(1) meets the criteria of AS 08.32.020(a);

(2) has successfully passed a state or regional dental hygiene clinical examination that [WHICH] the board has determined is at least equivalent in scope, quality, and difficulty to the Alaska clinical examination;

(3) has been in active clinical dental hygiene practice averaging not [NO] less than 700 hours a year [14 HOURS PER WEEK] for each of the two years

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immediately preceding application for state licensure;

(4) has not failed the clinical dental hygiene examination of this state;

(5) has not previously had a license to practice dental hygiene issued by any state or region revoked;

(6) **has completed not less than 14 hours of continuing education related to clinical hygiene in the two years before filing an application with the board; the continuing education required under this paragraph must be approved by the board, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, or the American Dental Hygienists' Association** [IS PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED BY A BOARD MEMBER];

(7) pays the fees required under AS 08.32.097; and

(8) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a dental or dental hygiene licensing jurisdiction.

*Sec. 3.* AS 08.36.075(d) is amended to read:

(d) The board shall require that inspection of dental radiological equipment occur once within every **six [FIVE]** calendar years and require that records concerning the inspection be provided to the board by the owner or lessee of the equipment and kept on file where the equipment is located. The board shall, upon application by the owner or lessee of the dental radiological equipment, submission of evidence documenting compliance with the inspection standards of the board, and payment of a fee set by the board, issue to the owner or lessee an inspection seal indicating the date by which the dental radiological equipment must pass inspection again. The date on the inspection seal shall be December 31 of the **fifth [FOURTH]** calendar year that occurs after the calendar year in which the inspection occurred. A dentist may not use, or allow a person under the dentist's supervision to use, dental radiological equipment in this state after the date on the most recent inspection seal. The board may authorize an inspector who is not a member of the board to determine whether the owner or lessee of dental radiological equipment is in compliance with the inspection standards of the board, collect the appropriate fee and remit the fee to the board, and issue an inspection seal indicating the date by which the dental radiological equipment must
pass inspection again. An inspector who performs an inspection under this subsection shall report the results of each inspection to the board and to the department, indicating whether the dental radiological equipment was in compliance with the inspection standards of the board and whether an inspection seal was issued.

* Sec. 4. AS 08.36.110 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.36.110. Qualifications for license. An applicant for a license to practice dentistry shall

(1) provide certification to the board that the applicant

   (A) is a graduate of a dental school that, at the time of graduation, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association;

   (B) holds a certificate from the American Dental Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the applicant has successfully passed the written examinations given by the commission;

   (C) has not had a license to practice dentistry revoked, suspended, or voluntarily surrendered in this state or another state;

   (D) is not the subject of an adverse decision based upon a complaint, investigation, review procedure, or other disciplinary proceeding within the five years immediately preceding application, or of an unresolved complaint, investigation, review procedure, or other disciplinary proceeding, undertaken by a state, territorial, local, or federal dental licensing jurisdiction or a dental society;

   (E) is not the subject of an unresolved or an adverse decision based upon a complaint, investigation, review procedure, or other disciplinary proceeding, undertaken by a state, territorial, local, or federal dental licensing jurisdiction, dental society, or law enforcement agency that relates to criminal or fraudulent activity, dental malpractice, or negligent dental care and that adversely reflects on the applicant's ability or competence to practice dentistry or on the safety or well-being of patients;

   (F) is not the subject of an adverse report from the National Practitioner Data Bank or the American Association of Dental Examiners

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(G) is not [AN] impaired to an extent that affects the applicant's ability to practice dentistry [PRACTITIONER];

(H) has not been convicted of a crime that adversely reflects on the applicant's ability or competency to practice dentistry or that jeopardizes the safety or well-being of a patient;

(2) pass, to the satisfaction of the board, written, clinical, and other examinations administered or approved by the board; and

(3) meet the other qualifications for a license established by the board by regulation.

* Sec. 5. AS 08.36.234(a) is amended to read:

(a) The board shall provide for the licensing without examination, except as provided in (2) of this subsection, of a dentist who

(1) provides certification to the board that the dentist

(A) is a graduate of a dental school accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its successor agency, and holds a certificate from the American Dental Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the dentist has passed the written examination given by the commission;

(B) has passed clinical and written examinations required for licensure in another state, territory, or region of the United States and is licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory, or region of the United States; the state, territory, or region in which the dentist is licensed must have licensing requirements at least generally equivalent to those of this state at the time of application; if the board does not consider the licensing requirements of the other jurisdiction to be generally equivalent to those of this state at the time of application because certain areas of subject matter were not included in the other jurisdiction's examinations, the board may find compliance with the requirements of this subparagraph if the dentist holds a specialty certification in the omitted subject areas;
(C) is in good standing with the licensing entity in the jurisdiction where the dentist is currently licensed and in all jurisdictions in which the dentist was previously licensed while practicing in those jurisdictions; if the dentist is employed by the federal government, the dentist must be in good standing with the employing federal agency;

(D) has been engaged in continuous active clinical practice averaging at least 20 hours a week for each of the five years immediately preceding the application

(i) in a jurisdiction in which the dentist was licensed and in good standing; or

(ii) working for the federal government while in good standing with the employing federal agency and after having been licensed by a jurisdiction;

(E) is not the subject of an adverse decision based upon a complaint, investigation, review procedure, or other disciplinary proceeding within the five years immediately preceding application, or of an unresolved complaint, investigation, review procedure, or other disciplinary proceeding, undertaken by a state, territorial, local, or federal dental licensing jurisdiction or a dental society;

(F) is not the subject of an unresolved or an adverse decision based upon a complaint, investigation, review procedure, or other disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a state, territorial, local, or federal dental licensing jurisdiction, dental society, or law enforcement agency that relates to criminal or fraudulent activity, dental malpractice, or negligent dental care and that adversely reflects on the applicant's ability or competence to practice dentistry or on the safety or well-being of patients;

(G) has not previously had a license to practice dentistry suspended for grounds similar to those specified under AS 08.36.315, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered;

(H) has completed at least 42 hours of continuing education related to clinical dentistry in the three years preceding application for a
license in this state; the continuing education must have been approved by the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, or the appropriate specialty board;

(I) has not, within the previous three years, failed the clinical exam given by the Western Regional Examining Board;

(J) is not the subject of an adverse report from the National Practitioner Data Bank or the American Association of Dental Examiners Clearinghouse for Board Actions that relates to criminal or fraudulent activity, negligent dental care, or malpractice;

(2) has passed, to the satisfaction of the board, a written examination [THAT CONSISTS OF THE PORTION OF THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION GIVEN UNDER AS 08.36.160(b)] that pertains to the state's laws on the practice of dentistry; the board may not require a higher passing score for applicants under this section than the board requires for applicants under AS 08.36.110;

(3) is personally interviewed by the board for purposes of verifying credentials;

(4) pays all required fees;

(5) provides the board with an affidavit that the dentist is not an impaired practitioner;

(6) provides to the board an authorization for release of records in a form prescribed by the board.

* Sec. 6. AS 08.36.246(a) is amended to read:

(a) An applicant for a specialty license shall

(1) meet all of the requirements under AS 08.36.110(1) and (3) [POSSESS A LICENSE TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY IN THE STATE];

(2) have completed as many academic years of advanced education in the specialty as are required by the appropriate specialty board in a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association or its successor agency; [AND]

(3) be a diplomate or the equivalent of the appropriate specialty board, or be eligible to be examined for diplomate status as documented by an organization
recognized by the American Dental Association; and

(4) satisfy one of the following:

(A) pass an examination approved by the board;

(B) pass a specialty examination given by the Central Regional Examining Board; or

(C) be board certified by a specialty certification board recognized by the American Dental Association.

* Sec. 7. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION. The revisor is instructed to substitute the word "practice" for the word "work" in the catch line to AS 08.32.110.

* Sec. 8. AS 08.32.020(b); AS 08.36.120, 08.36.130, 08.36.160, 08.36.180, and 08.36.190 are repealed.