

# 34<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 405  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-4457



1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 451-8172

## Representative Frank Tomaszewski

### House Bill 197: Board of Dental Examiners

#### Sponsor Statement

*"An Act relating to the practice of dental hygiene; establishing an executive administrator position for the Board of Dental Examiners; and relating to the ownership of dental offices and clinics."*

The Board of Dental Examiners requests support for a bill that makes three key updates to Alaska's dental regulations to modernize oversight, expand care access, and improve legal compliance. These proposals are practical, widely supported, and modeled on standards used by other state boards.

The bill establishes a dedicated Executive Administrator for the Dental Board—similar to roles on the Medical, Nursing, and Pharmacy Boards—to improve efficiency, streamline application processing, and let board members focus on high-level issues. This position, housed in the Department of Commerce, will be partially exempt under state personnel laws.

Currently, the law defines who can legally own a dental practice but lacks enforcement. The bill allows the Board to issue penalties (up to \$1,000 per day) to unauthorized owners who don't transition ownership after two 24-month grace periods—ensuring compliance without being punitive.

It also updates outdated licensure requirements for dental hygienists. By removing the minimum two-year program length (while still requiring CODA accreditation), the bill broadens eligibility to graduates of accredited accelerated programs without compromising quality.

Together, these changes strengthen Alaska's dental system through better administration, compliance, and workforce access.