

REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ

Alaska State Legislature / Ketchikan, Saxman, Wrangell, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Hyder, Loring and Meyers Chuck

SESSION ADDRESS:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907-465-3824
Toll Free: 1-800-686-3824
Fax: 907-465-3175



INTERIM ADDRESS:

1900 First Avenue, Suite 310
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-247-4672
907-465-5269
Fax: 907-225-8546

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 295

“An act relating to the practice of dentistry; relating to dental radiological equipment; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 295 accomplishes two things: it transfers dental radiological equipment inspections from the Board of Dental Examiners to the Department of Health and Social Services and it establishes specialty dental licenses in the State of Alaska.

The Board of Dental Examiners currently certifies inspectors of dental radiological equipment who in turn conduct inspections at dental offices. This bill would move the authority and responsibility for inspections to the Department of Health and Social Services, which already inspects medical radiological equipment and employs state inspectors. This bill also allows for the collection of fees to cover the costs associated with inspection.

The second part of the legislation establishes “truth in advertising” for dental specialists. In Alaska, there is currently no legal definition for what a dental specialist is, and the board does not have the authority to define the term. HB295 ensures that if a dentist advertises as a specialist in a field, they must meet the qualifications for a specialist established by the Alaska State Board of Dental Examiners.

A dentist in Alaska can legally promote themselves as specialist in fields such as orthodontics, oral surgery, endodontistry, etc., even if they have no specialty training in that fields. Without the authority to define dental specialists, the board cannot prevent misleading advertisements to protect consumer interests. This bill ensures that a dentist who advertises as a specialist has the training to adequately provide the services a patient would seek a specialist for.

If you have any questions, please contact Abigail Sweetman in my office at (907) 465-3824 or abigail.sweetman@akleg.gov.