

HB 197 - Recap

Rep. Frank Tomaszewski

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Operational and Compliance
Improvements to the Board of
Dental Examiners

Overview

HB 197 makes three key changes:

- Adds an executive administrator position
- Changes language regarding hygienist accreditation
- Introduces enforcement policy in the case of malpractice

Sectional Analysis

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- Section 1
 - Amends the two-year duration program requirement for a license applicant under AS 08.32.014 and changes it to an accredited academic program of any duration
- Section 2
 - Establishes qualifications and duties of the executive administrator
- Section 3
 - Amended to add a section allowing the Board of Dental Examiners to employ an executive administrator
- Section 4
 - Allows the Board of Dental Examiners to levy a fine if a dental practice is found guilty of not acting in good faith
- Section 5
 - Includes the Board of Dental Examiners in the partially exempt service positions

Why these changes?

Executive Administrator position

- An increased number of license, certification, endorsement, permit, and course approval types that BODA regulates has put severe workloads on the volunteer board members
- A dedicated Executive Administrator would be delegated authority by the board to approve straightforward applications and increase their role in the regulations review process.
- These improvements would streamline licensure, keep Alaska's dental standards up-to-date, and ensure board members can focus on the board work that requires experts in the field.

Why these changes?

Hygienist Program Expansion

- There has been a significant increase in dental hygiene applicants that have graduated from accelerated programs.
- Current statute requires that a dental hygiene applicant must complete a course of instruction that is at least 2 years duration
 - This fails to align with even a standard associates degree, with is typically accomplished in 18 months
- Removing the time length specification allows for greater board approval of courses that are already accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

Why these changes?

Compliance Enforcement Policy

- In recent years, BODA has been involved in several cases related to unlicensed practice ownership.
- Current statute gives clear guidance in regard to defining “ownership of a dental practice or facility” but fails to compel compliance.
- The proposed statute suggests a limit which the board can determine the appropriate penalty to encourage compliance.