

**HOUSE BILL NO. 111**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SPOHNHOLZ, Kreiss-Tomkins

Introduced: 2/24/21

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act relating to the practice of dental hygiene; relating to advanced practice permits**  
2   **for dental hygienists; relating to dental assistants; prohibiting unfair discrimination**  
3   **under group health insurance against a dental hygienist who holds an advanced practice**  
4   **permit; relating to medical assistance for dental hygiene services; and providing for an**  
5   **effective date."**

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

7    \* **Section 1.** AS 08.32.110(e) is amended to read:

8           (e) This section does not prohibit a licensed dental hygienist

9                   (1) with an endorsement issued under AS 08.32.085 from performing  
10           the activities authorized under AS 08.32.085;

11                   (2) who **holds an advanced practice permit issued by the board**  
12           **under AS 08.32.125 or** has entered into a collaborative agreement approved by the  
13           board under AS 08.32.115 from performing the activities authorized under the **permit**

1        or collaborative agreement; or

2                    (3) from performing a dental operation, procedure, or service a dentist  
3        may delegate to a dental assistant under AS 08.36.346.

4        \* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.32 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5                    **Sec. 08.32.125. Advanced practice permits.** (a) The board may issue an  
6        advanced practice permit to a licensed dental hygienist with a minimum of 4,000  
7        documented hours of clinical experience. A licensed dental hygienist holding an  
8        advanced practice permit may

9                    (1) promote oral health and provide disease prevention education and  
10       oral systemic health education;

11                   (2) remove calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from the  
12       surfaces of teeth;

13                   (3) apply topical preventive or prophylactic agents, including silver  
14       diamine fluoride, fluoride varnishes, and pit and fissure sealants;

15                   (4) polish and smooth restorations;

16                   (5) remove marginal overhangs;

17                   (6) perform preliminary charting and triage to formulate a dental  
18       hygiene assessment and dental hygiene treatment plan;

19                   (7) expose and develop radiographs;

20                   (8) use local periodontal therapeutic agents;

21                   (9) perform nonsurgical periodontal therapy, with or without the  
22       administration of local anesthesia;

23                   (10) screen for oral cancer;

24                   (11) if certified by the board, administer local anesthesia;

25                   (12) prescribe

26                        (A) fluoride that is applied or provided to a patient; and

27                        (B) chlorhexidine or a similar antibacterial rinse; and

28                   (13) delegate dental operations and services to a dental assistant as  
29       provided in AS 08.36.346.

30                   (b) A licensed dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit may  
31       provide the services described in (a) of this section to a patient who is unable to

1 receive dental treatment because of age, infirmity, or disability and is

2 (1) a resident in a senior center, including a hospital, long-term care  
3 facility, adult foster home, residential care facility, or adult congregate living facility;

4 (2) a resident in a health care facility, including a mental health  
5 residential program or facility for individuals with developmental or other disabilities;

6 (3) held in a local correctional facility for juveniles or adults;

7 (4) enrolled in a nursery school, day care program, vocational training  
8 facility, primary school, secondary school, private school, or public charter school;

9 (5) entitled to benefits under 42 U.S.C. 1786 (Special Supplemental  
10 Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children);

11 (6) homebound; or

12 (7) a resident of a dental health professional shortage area designated  
13 under 42 U.S.C. 254e.

14 (c) A licensed dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit may  
15 provide the services described in (a) of this section to a patient described in (b) of this  
16 section without

17 (1) the physical presence, authorization, or supervision of a licensed  
18 dentist;

19 (2) a licensed dentist's examination of the patient.

20 (d) A licensed dental hygienist who provides services under an advanced  
21 practice permit shall maintain professional liability insurance and provide the patient,  
22 or the parent or legal guardian of the patient, with

23 (1) a written notice that the treatment provided will be limited to  
24 services permitted under (a) of this section;

25 (2) a written recommendation that the patient be examined by a  
26 licensed dentist for comprehensive oral health care services; and

27 (3) assistance in obtaining a referral to a licensed dentist for further  
28 dental planning and treatment, including a written description of methods for  
29 obtaining a referral and a list of licensed dentists in the patient's community or other  
30 resources for finding a licensed dentist.

31 (e) A licensed dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit may

1 practice as an independent contractor.

2 (f) An advanced practice permit is valid until the expiration of the dental  
3 hygienist's license to practice. A licensed dental hygienist may renew an advanced  
4 practice permit at the time of license renewal under AS 08.32.071.

5 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.32.160 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 08.32.160. Grounds for discipline, suspension, or revocation of license.**

7 The board may revoke or suspend the license of a dental hygienist, or may reprimand,  
8 censure, or discipline a licensee, if, after a hearing, the board finds that the licensee

9 (1) used or knowingly cooperated in deceit, fraud, or intentional  
10 misrepresentation to obtain a license, certificate, or endorsement;

11 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation in the  
12 course of providing or billing for professional services or engaging in professional  
13 activities;

14 (3) advertised professional services in a false or misleading manner;

15 (4) has been convicted of a felony or other crime that affects the  
16 licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

17 (5) failed to comply with this chapter, with a regulation adopted under  
18 this chapter or under AS 08.36, or with an order of the board;

19 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

20 (A) professional incompetence;

21 (B) addiction or dependence on alcohol or other drugs that  
22 impairs the licensee's ability to practice safely;

23 (C) physical or mental disability;

24 (7) engaged in lewd or immoral conduct in connection with the  
25 delivery of professional service to patients;

26 (8) **except as permitted under an advanced practice permit under**  
27 **AS 08.32.125,** performed clinical procedures without being under the supervision of a  
28 licensed dentist;

29 (9) did not conform to professional standards in delivering dental  
30 hygiene services to patients regardless of whether actual injury to the patient occurred;

31 **(10) permitted a dental assistant employed by a dental hygienist or**

**working under the supervision of a dental hygienist to perform a dental procedure in violation of AS 08.32.110 or AS 08.36.346;**

**(11) falsified or destroyed a patient or facility record, or failed to maintain a patient or facility record for at least seven years after the date the record was created.**

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 08.36.346 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit issued under AS 08.32.125 may delegate to a dental assistant under a level of supervision specified by the board in regulations

(1) the exposure and development of radiographs;

(2) application of topical preventive agents or pit and fissure sealants;

(3) other tasks specified by the board in regulations.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 21.36.090(d) is amended to read:

(d) Except to the extent necessary to comply with AS 21.42.365 and AS 21.56, a person may not practice or permit unfair discrimination against a person who provides a service covered under a group health insurance policy that extends coverage on an expense incurred basis, or under a group service or indemnity type contract issued by a health maintenance organization or a nonprofit corporation, if the service is within the scope of the provider's occupational license. In this subsection, "provider" means a state licensed physician, physician assistant, dentist, osteopath, optometrist, chiropractor, advanced practice registered nurse, naturopath, physical therapist, occupational therapist, marital and family therapist, psychologist, psychological associate, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor, [OR] certified direct-entry midwife, **or dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit.**

\* **Sec. 6.** AS 47.07.030(b) is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the mandatory services specified in (a) of this section and the services provided under (d) of this section, the department may offer only the following optional services: case management services for traumatic or acquired brain injury; case management and nutrition services for pregnant women; personal care services in a recipient's home; emergency hospital services; long-term care

noninstitutional services; medical supplies and equipment; advanced practice registered nurse services; clinic services; rehabilitative services for children eligible for services under AS 47.07.063, substance abusers, and emotionally disturbed or chronically mentally ill adults; targeted case management services; inpatient psychiatric facility services for individuals 65 years of age or older and individuals under 21 years of age; psychologists' services; clinical social workers' services; marital and family therapy services; midwife services; prescribed drugs; physical therapy; occupational therapy; chiropractic services; low-dose mammography screening, as defined in AS 21.42.375(e); hospice care; treatment of speech, hearing, and language disorders; adult dental and dental hygiene services; prosthetic devices and eyeglasses; optometrists' services; intermediate care facility services, including intermediate care facility services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; skilled nursing facility services for individuals under 21 years of age; and reasonable transportation to and from the point of medical care.

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

REGULATIONS. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Board of Dental Examiners may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulations.

\* **Sec. 8.** Section 7 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

\* **Sec. 9.** Except as provided in sec. 8 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2022.