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House Ways and Means Committee Chair

House Labor & Commerce Committee Co-Chair

Serving House District 16: College Gate, Russian Jack, Nunaka Valley, & Reflection Lake

Sectional Analysis

House Bill 111 Version I

Dental Hygienist Advanced Practice Permit

Section 1

Ability of practice of dental hygienists.

(e) Amends AS 08.32.110. to allow a licensed dental hygienist who holds an advanced practice permit issued by the board to perform duties allowed by the permit.

Section 2

Advanced practice permits.

Adds a new section under AS 08.32.125 creating the advanced practice permit and providing requirements as follows:

- (a) The Board of Dental Examiners may issue an advanced practice permit to a licensed dental hygienist with a minimum 4,000 documented hours of clinical experience. This subsection lists what duties fall under advanced practice permits: general oral health & cleaning, providing treatment plans, screenings, taking radiographs, and/or delegating to dental assistants.
- (b) A licensed dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit may provide services to a patient who is not able to receive dental treatment because of age, infirmity, or disability. The patient may be a resident of a senior center, residential health facility, or held in a local correctional facility. The patient may also be enrolled in certain schools, receiving benefits under the Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC), homebound, or a resident of a community that has a shortage of dental health professionals.
- (c) A licensed dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit can provide appropriate services to a patient without the presence, authorization, and supervision of a licensed dentist and without an examination from a licensed dentist.
- (d) A licensed dental hygienist with an advanced practice permit must maintain professional liability insurance. They must also give the patient, parent, or legal guardian written notice that the treatment provided will be limited to those allowed by the permit, a written recommendation that the patient be examined by a licensed dentist for comprehensive oral care, and assistance in receiving a referral to a licensed dentist for further oral treatment.
- (e) An advanced practice permit is valid until the license of the dental hygienist expires. A licensed dental hygienist can renew their advanced practice permit at the same time they renew their license.

Section 3

Grounds for discipline, suspension, or revocation of license.

Amends AS 08.32.160 to exempt a licensed dental hygienist as permitted under an advanced practice permit from supervision requirements for clinical procedures. Licenses may be revoked if a dental hygienist allows a dental assistant to perform a prohibited procedure, or if the licensee falsified, destroyed, or failed to maintain a patient or facility record for the last seven years.

Section 4

Allows a dental hygienist holding an advance practice permit to delegate to a dental assistant the exposure/development of radiographs, the application of preventative agents, and other tasks as specified by the board in regulations.

Section 5

Prohibits insurance providers from discriminating against dental hygienists holding advanced practice permits.

Section 6

This section is amended to include dental hygienist services in the optional services provided by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Section 7

Allows the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Board of Dental Examiners to adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made in this bill. The regulations may not take effect before the effective date of this bill.

Section 8

Section 7 on regulations takes effect immediately.

Section 9

Effective date for sections 1-6 is January 1, 2023.