

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 319(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/15/08

Referred: Labor and Commerce

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES RAMRAS, Thomas, Salmon

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the practice of dentistry and to dental assistants."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 08.36 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 **Article 3A. Dental Assistants.**

5 **Sec. 08.36.342. Coronal polishing certificate.** (a) The board shall issue a
6 coronal polishing certificate to a dental assistant if the dental assistant furnishes
7 evidence satisfactory to the board that the dental assistant has completed a program of
8 instruction approved by the board.

9 (b) A certificate issued under (a) of this section authorizes a dental assistant
10 under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in the state to perform coronal
11 polishing on teeth without calculus.

12 (c) The board may by regulation establish fees, renewal, and continuing
13 education requirements for a certificate issued under this section.

14 **Sec. 08.36.344. Restorative function certificate.** (a) The board shall issue a
15 restorative function certificate to a dental assistant if the dental assistant furnishes

1 evidence satisfactory to the board that the dental assistant has

2 (1) successfully completed a program accredited by the Commission
3 on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or other course of
4 instruction approved by the board; and

5 (2) passed the Western Regional Examining Board's restorative
6 examination or other equivalent examination approved by the board within the five
7 years preceding the dental assistant's certificate application, or the dental assistant has
8 legal authorization from another state or jurisdiction to perform restorative functions.

9 (b) A certificate issued under this section authorizes a dental assistant under
10 the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to place restorations into a cavity prepared
11 by the licensed dentist and thereafter carve, contour, and adjust contacts and occlusion
12 of the restoration.

13 (c) The board may by regulation establish fees, renewal, and continuing
14 education requirements for a certificate under this section.

15 **Sec. 08.36.346. Delegation to dental assistants.** (a) Except as otherwise
16 provided in this chapter, a dentist licensed in this state may delegate to a dental
17 assistant under indirect supervision

18 (1) the exposure and development of radiographs;

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

20 and

21 (3) other dental operations and services except

22 (A) those that may be performed by a dental hygienist under
23 AS 08.32.110(a); and

24 (B) those that may not be delegated to a dental hygienist under
25 AS 08.32.110(c).

26 (b) A dentist licensed in this state may delegate to a dental assistant under
27 direct supervision

28 (1) coronal polishing on teeth without calculus, if the dental assistant is
29 certified under AS 08.36.342;

30 (2) the placement of a restoration into a cavity prepared by a dentist
31 licensed under this chapter and the subsequent carving, contouring, and adjustment of

1 the contacts and occlusion of the restoration, if the dental assistant is certified under
2 AS 08.36.344; and

3 (3) other dental operations and services as defined and regulated by the
4 board that do not require the professional skill of a licensed dentist or licensed dental
5 hygienist, including those dental operations and services provided in AS 08.32.110(c)
6 and this chapter.

7 **Sec. 08.36.349. Definitions.** In AS 08.36.342 - 08.36.349,

8 (1) "direct supervision" means a dentist licensed in this state is in the
9 dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes
10 the procedure, and, before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the
11 dental assistant;

12 (2) "indirect supervision" means a dentist licensed in this state is in the
13 dental office, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental facility while the
14 procedures are being performed by the dental assistant.

15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 08.36.370 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

16 (4) "calculus" means a hardened deposit of mineralized plaque;

17 (5) "coronal polishing" means the removal of supragingival plaque and
18 stains;

19 (6) "dental assistant" means a person employed to provide clinical
20 assistance to a dentist licensed in the state.

21 * **Sec. 3.** AS 08.32.110(d) is repealed.