

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 319(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/4/08

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES RAMRAS, Thomas, Salmon, Buch

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the practice of dentistry, to dental assistants, and to dental
2 hygienists."

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

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

5 **Article 3A. Dental Assistants.**

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

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

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

1 **Sec. 08.36.344. Restorative function certificate.** (a) The board shall issue a
 2 restorative function certificate to a dental assistant if the dental assistant furnishes
 3 evidence satisfactory to the board that the dental assistant has

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

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

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

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

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

20 (1) the exposure and development of radiographs;

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

22 and

23 (3) other dental operations and services except

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

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

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

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

1 (2) the placement of a restoration into a cavity prepared by a dentist
 2 licensed under this chapter and the subsequent carving, contouring, and adjustment of
 3 the contacts and occlusion of the restoration, if the dental assistant is certified under
 4 AS 08.36.344; and

5 (3) other dental operations and services as defined and regulated by the
 6 board; however, a dentist may not delegate to a dental assistant a dental operation or
 7 service that requires the professional skill of a licensed dentist or licensed dental
 8 hygienist, including those dental operations and services specified in AS 08.32.110(c).

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

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

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

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

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

19 (5) "coronal polishing" means the removal of supragingival plaque and
 20 stains;

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

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