

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 239(HES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/19/08

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATOR THOMAS

**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 as defined and regulated by the  
22 board, except

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

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

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

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

31 (2) the placement of a restoration into a cavity prepared by a dentist

1 licensed under this chapter and the subsequent carving, contouring, and adjustment of  
 2 the contacts and occlusion of the restoration, if the dental assistant is certified under  
 3 AS 08.36.344; and

4 (3) other dental operations and services as defined and regulated by the  
 5 board, except

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.32.110(d) is repealed.