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DENTAL
EXAM.

A PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

August 9, 1978

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of Commerce and Economic
Development

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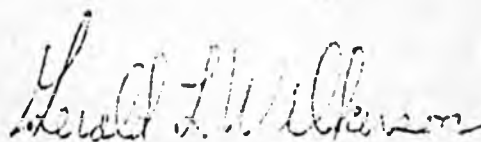
August 9, 1978

Members of the
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the intent of Title 24 and 44 of the
Alaska Statutes, the attached report is submitted for
your review.

A PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

August 9, 1978



Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
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PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

Purpose

In accordance with the intent of Alaska Statutes 24.20.271(1) and 44.66.050 (sunset legislation), a review of the Board of Dental Examiners was conducted to review Board activities and accomplishments to determine if the Board has been operating in an effective, efficient, and economical manner.

As required by legislative intent, this report shall be considered during the legislative oversight function in determining whether the Board of Dental Examiners should be reestablished. The law currently specifies that this Board will terminate on June 30, 1979, but will continue until June 30, 1980 for the purpose of concluding its affairs.

Scope

The major areas reviewed were the Board's operations and its licensing, examination, administration, complaint and affirmative action functions. Our review consisted of analyzing and evaluating the following:

- (1) Applicable statutes and Board regulations;
- (2) Interviews with Board members and questionnaires sent to the Board;
- (3) Interviews with health agencies and professional associations;
- (4) Tests of records and documents of the Board and the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL), Department of Commerce and Economic Development;
- (5) Interviews with OL employees;
- (6) Complaints filed with OL, the Ombudsman's Office, Consumer Affairs Agency, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office;
- (7) Questionnaires sent to 15 dental schools;
- (8) Questionnaires sent to State licensed dentists and dental hygienists; and
- (9) Review of other states' licensing requirements.

Scope Constraints

This review was hampered by the following constraints:

- (1) The Board has not established and reported financial and program plans as required by AS 37.07.050 nor has it developed and reported performance information regarding its effectiveness and accomplishments as required by AS 37.07.090.
- (2) OL has not adequately collected, recorded or maintained pertinent files and statistics relating to the Board to effectively and efficiently carry out its administrative responsibilities.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Board of Dental Examiners was first created in 1906. Today, it is a regulatory board with seven members - five dentists, one dental hygienist and one public member. The purpose of the Board and dental regulations is defined by an editor's note to AS 08.36.010:

"The practice of dentistry in the state is hereby declared to affect the public health, safety and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the dental profession merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified dentists be permitted to practice dentistry in the state. All provisions of this chapter relating to the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene and to the registration of dental laboratories shall be liberally construed to carry out these objects and purposes."

Basically, the Board determines the minimum quality of dental care in the State by:

1. Examining and issuing licenses to qualified applicants;
2. Establishing or amending rules and regulations necessary and desirable to enforce State statutes;
3. Holding hearings in order to revoke, annul or suspend the license of a person violating the dental statutes and regulations.

In addition, the Board has staff support from DL which is composed of two sections. The licensing section which processes applications is supposed to maintain license files, gather and collect statistics, answer inquiries and provide other administrative help to the licensing boards. The other section provides investigative services to the Board in the event of consumer or other professional complaints.

The Board regulates three groups of dental practitioners in the State: dentists, dentists specializing in specific fields and dental hygienists who perform limited dental services. Most licensing requirements are established by statute. However, statutes have granted the power of waiving the dental examination if applicants have certain qualifications. In addition, Alaska Statutes allow the Board to grant special permits for the practice of dentistry without taking the clinical examination. One is a temporary permit for applicants waiting to take the examination.

The permit limits the area of practice to areas where there are currently no dentists practicing and is valid for one year. Another special permit is granted to those federal agencies that supply dentistry to critical shortage areas.

The clinical examination given by the Board to prospective dentists tests two areas: oral diagnosis and operative dentistry. The operative dentistry section is graded by Board members. The oral diagnostic test is composed and graded by a national organization. All dental applicants, except those given special permits, must take the clinical examination before practicing dentistry in Alaska.

Dental hygienists are required to take a clinical examination. However, reciprocity is allowed if applicants meet certain requirements. Dental specialists are licensed if applicants have certain qualifications. They are not required to take a test, although they must be Alaska licensed dentists.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Policy Issues

This review contains policy issues raised as a result of our evaluation of various Board practices. The final policy decisions affecting these practices are not within the scope of this review but require legislative consideration. In debating these decisions, the legislative oversight committees should take into consideration the findings and alternatives presented in this report, so that the potential impact of policy changes can be evaluated.

Report Conclusion

In our opinion, the Board of Dental Examiners should continue to regulate and license dental professionals. The regulation and licensing of these professionals is necessary to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

However, certain changes need to be implemented in order for the Board of Dental Examiners to effectively perform its duties. Presently there is a dental manpower shortage noted in several areas of Alaska. Board policies are restricting the entry of qualified dentists and are not in the public's best interest. For example, the Board has no reciprocity or endorsement agreements with other states. Also, the Board's clinical examination required for licensing is given only once a year. Because of these policies and a low pass rate for dental applicants on the last clinical examination of 48%, the dental manpower shortage has not improved (see Recommendation No. 1).

In addition, the Board's clinical examination has several deficiencies with its procedures and examination subjects. The deficiencies, first noted several years ago in hearings to evaluate the fairness of the clinical examination, have not been corrected (see Recommendation No. 2).

The Board has given almost no guidance concerning license violations. The public, as well as the dental profession, would be better protected if regulations concerning license violations were better defined by the Board (see Recommendation No. 4).

The Board needs to evaluate present Alaska Statutes for relevancy and protection of the public. For instance, temporary dental permit statutes establish a double standard of public protection in rural and urban areas (see Recommendation No. 3). Dental license violation statutes restrict advertizing which is unconstitutional as determined by the United States Supreme Court (see Recommendation No. 7).

There are no statutes requiring continuing education for dentists, dental hygienists and dental specialists. This requirement would help prevent professional obsolescence and may provide an effective control over the quality of dentistry in the State (see Recommendation No. 5).

In conclusion, the Board of Dental Examiners should analyze and evaluate the purpose of the Board and take the necessary actions needed to perform and fulfill their responsibilities to the public.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings and Recommendations No. 1 through No. 6 are addressed to the Board of Dental Examiners. Findings and Recommendations No. 7 through No. 10 are addressed to the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL), and should be read in conjunction with "A Performance Review of the Division of Occupational Licensing, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, October 30, 1978", issued under separate cover.

Recommendation No. 1

The Board of Dental Examiners should institute changes in its procedures and regulations which will encourage more dental services to be provided in Alaska.

Presently there is a shortage of dental manpower in several areas of Alaska. This has been substantiated by studies conducted by two nonprofit, federally-funded agencies - the Southeast Alaska Health Systems Agency and the South Central Health Planning and Development Agency. In addition, the federal government on July 25, 1978, listed 14 divisional areas in Alaska as dental manpower shortage areas (Appendix J). Also, 24 of 56 dentists responded to a Legislative Audit questionnaire (Appendix H) that they believed rural areas of Alaska are not adequately serviced by dentists in private practice.

Several of the Board's policies have not helped solve this problem. For instance, even though Alaska statutes allow the Board to establish reciprocity agreements with other states, the Board has not chosen to do so. Fifty-seven percent of those State dentists responding to a Legislative Audit survey believe that Alaska should establish reciprocity agreements for dentists with other states. Also, the clinical examination for dentist licenses is given only once a year. In addition, there is a potential conflict of interest that exists when Alaska Board members who are practicing dentists grade the performance of applicants who represent potential competition. However, no instances of deliberate grading bias have been noted.

In order to encourage more qualified dentists to practice in Alaska, we recommend that the Board attempt to join a regional testing board and establish reciprocity agreements with participating states. For instance, the Western Regional Testing Board is comprised of the states of Arizona, Utah, and Oregon. Their clinical examinations are given at least twice a year and comply with all of Alaska statutory requirements (See Recommendation No. 2). They allow Board members to participate in the grading and will pay transportation and per diem costs for participating Board members.

Also, the Board should promptly institute regulations which allow dental paraprofessionals, such as dental hygienists, to provide many needed services to Alaska's rural areas without the direct supervision of dentists. During the 1978 legislative session, the Alaska Legislature approved a bill to expand the duties that dental hygienists may perform within the State. Committee Substitute House Bill 809 established that the Board of Dental Examiners will promulgate regulations defining the expanded duties performed by qualified dental hygienists without the direct supervision of a dentist.

In various completed studies including one by the National Task Force on State Dental Policies, a committee composed of various officials from several states, it was found that many dental hygienists were qualified to perform more dental functions than currently allowed by statutes. The Board will better serve and protect the public and encourage more dental services to be provided in Alaska by instituting regulations which will allow an expansion of dental hygienists' duties.

Recommendation No. 2

In the event Recommendation No. 1 is not implemented, the Board of Dental Examiners should change test procedures and content for examining dental and dental hygiene applicants in order to comply with legal requirements.

In the last three years, the Board of Dental Examiners has made improvements on its dental and dental hygiene clinical examinations. However, there are still many weaknesses and problems with the test. For example:

1. The clinical test for dentists does not test applicants' knowledge of prosthetic dentistry as required by Alaska Statute 08.36.160.
2. Board members do not inquire about the general health of patients used for the practical examination. Although applicants provide the patients, the Board should make certain that patients have good health and are not allergic to the anesthesia given.
3. The Board has no policy of restricting unsupervised visitors talking to applicants during the examination. A local dentist who was not connected with the examination process was observed talking to applicants without a Board member monitoring or supervising his presence.

4. The Board has no written examination procedures for either the dental or dental hygienist clinical examination. During the last examination, conflicting instructions were given to a dental hygienist applicant by different Board members.
5. Grade sheets and information sheets issued to dental hygienists contain conflicting grade information.
6. The Board has not formally established or communicated to dental hygiene applicants the minimum passing grade for the examination.
7. The Board requires that an outside laboratory be used in the casting of an applicant's work for the clinical examination for dentists. However, the applicant's grade can be affected by the laboratory's work. Such grading is unfair to the applicant and does not give him due process consideration.

A questionnaire and a copy of the Board's regulations describing the clinical examination for dentists was sent to 15 dental schools throughout the United States (Appendix F). Nine schools responded that they thought Alaska's test did not adequately measure the competency of prospective dentists. The most prevalent criticism was that the examination was not comprehensive enough. Thirteen of the 15 schools mentioned that the practical examination conducted in their states included the testing of an applicant's knowledge in prosthetic procedures.

In addition, dentists licensed in Alaska responded to a questionnaire in which 28 out of 56 dentists said that the clinical examination was not valid or useful as a tool for measuring the competency of dental applicants.

Twice in the last three years, dental applicants have filed complaints with the Board of Dental Examiners about the fairness of the clinical examination. Independent hearing officers were appointed by the Governor. Each time the officers found several deficiencies in the testing subjects, procedures and regulations. As a result the Board wrote regulations outlining the test subjects and made procedural changes. However, some problems were not corrected and may cause future costly litigations.

In order to correct the noted problems, we recommend that the following be implemented.

1. The clinical examination for dentists should include a section on prosthetic dentistry.

2. The Board should create a test manual including testing and grading procedures outlined for Board members who will grade applicants and for the examiner from OL. Also, any facts and studies demonstrating the relevancy of testing subjects and measuring the consistency and quality of grading by Board members should be collected and included in the test manual.
3. The Board should establish additional regulations for examination. Such regulations should include:
 - a. Grading criteria for the testing of dental hygiene applicants;
 - b. A minimum passing grade for the dental hygiene examination;
 - c. A requirement for applicants to furnish medical histories of dental patients; and
 - d. A requirement that people not taking or grading the examination must have prior Board approval to attend the examination and will be supervised. This regulation should be strictly enforced.
4. The Board should give the option to applicants taking the dentist clinical examination to do all of their own laboratory work or use a professional laboratory.

Recommendation No. 3

Legislation should be introduced to amend the temporary permit statutes for dentists in order to alleviate the double standard found in the current law.

Alaska statutes allow temporary permits to be given to qualified applicants who are applying to take the clinical examination and who will practice in those areas which have no practicing dentists. The Board believes that temporary permit requirements with those provisions establish a double standard of quality of public protection against incompetent dentists in rural and urban areas and has stopped granting permits. This restriction may also be in violation of State and federal anti-trust laws.

The implementation of Recommendation No. 1, which provides more frequent tests and allows reciprocity, will increase the speed and frequency of the application process. Amending AS 08.36.280, which is the legal basis for temporary permits for dentists, will prevent double standards of the quality of public protection in rural and urban areas.

In the event our Recommendation No. 1 is not considered as a viable solution to the dental manpower shortage problem in Alaska, we recommend an alternative would be to amend the temporary permit statute relaxing the use of permits throughout the State.

Recommendation No. 4

The Board of Dental Examiners, in conjunction with the Attorney General, should compose formal regulations which define and list examples of license violations.

Alaska Statute 08.36.310 outlines dental license violations which are grounds for the suspension or revocation of a dental license. The list includes vague terms such as "moral turpitude" and "unprofessional conduct", which many dentists probably would not understand without a lawyer's advice.

Presently the Board has not clarified or given examples of violations of "moral turpitude" or "unprofessional conduct" in its regulations. The public and dentistry profession would be better protected if licensed professionals had better guidance as to what are prohibited acts.

For instance, unsanitary conditions of dental offices is not specifically listed as a license violation. Listed in the responses to a questionnaire sent to state dentists and dental hygienists, there were five noted observations of unsanitary offices. Although unsanitary conditions may be covered under the term "unprofessional conduct", the condition should be specifically identified in the regulations as a license violation.

Recommendation No. 5

Legislation should be introduced requiring continuing education for dentists, dental hygienists and dental specialists.

Dental practitioners are acutely aware of the public trust that they maintain their professional competency. Required continuing education is one means of fulfilling that trust. In addition, a program of continuing education will recognize individual interests and efforts, avoid professional obsolescence and keep practitioners aware of changes taking place in the profession.

According to the Council of State Governments, a nonprofit organization which studies state practices, eight states have required continuing education for dentists. Twenty-eight of 56 dentists (50%) and 22 of 25 dental hygienists (88%) responded to a Legislative Audit questionnaire that they believed continuing education should be required of their professions.

Recommendation No. 6

Board of Dental Examiners should submit an annual report to the Governor's office and to the Alaska Dental Society in accordance with AS 08.36.070.

The Board of Dental Examiners issued its last annual report in 1975. AS 08.36.070 requires that these reports be submitted annually to the Governor's office and the Alaska Dental Society. Without this report, the Governor and the public cannot adequately evaluate the performance of the Board.

We recommend that the Board include, at a minimum, the following information in its report.

1. Board's purpose, goals and measures.
2. Receipts and disbursements related to the Board's operations.
3. Board member participation (based on Board minutes, one Board member has missed over forty percent of the meetings).
4. Number of investigations of dental license violations started and completed.
5. New dental regulations and statutes.

Recommendation No. 7

Legislation should be introduced to delete license violations which are unconstitutional and not in the public's best interest.

The United States Supreme Court ruling on John Bates and Van O'Steen vs. State Bar of Arizona established that many advertising restrictions of professionals were unconstitutional. AS 08.36.310 lists many license violations which prohibit advertising. For example, grounds for revocation of license under AS 08.36.310 include:

- (14) advertises prices for professional service;...
- (17) advertises by a medium other than the carrying or publishing of a modest professional card or the display of a modest window or street sign at the licensee's office containing the name, address, profession, office hours, telephone number and speciality;

(16) permits the use of his name as a dentists by others in the sale or advertisement of products;...

Number (14) is unconstitutional and (17) and (18) are not in the public's best interest to have restricted. These statutes restrict the free flow of information and may increase the cost of dental care to the public.

In an Attorney General's opinion addressed to the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development on March 15, 1978, it was stated:

"In order to avoid future litigation...it is suggested that the commissioner request the various licensing boards to undertake, in conjunction with this department, a review of all price advertising restrictions pertaining to both products and services for the purpose of recommending appropriate legislative or regulatory amendments as soon as possible."

Recommendation No. 8

The Board of Dental Examiners should establish formal goals, objectives and quantifiable measures which should be included in the OL's budget document.

Objectives describe what an agency or Board is seeking to accomplish during a specific year. Well formulated objectives are capable of measurement and should include numerical targets so that actual accomplishments can be compared with stated targets. Without goals and objectives, the Board's performance cannot be adequately evaluated and analyzed.

OL establishes its own budget goals and objectives. The budget documents do not include any goals or measures for individual boards. Without each Board's goals and measures being identified or measured, both the Governor's Office and the Legislature cannot evaluate a Board's performance (see the OL Performance Audit Report).

Recommendation No. 9

The Division of Occupational Licensing should collect, record and maintain for five year periods, files and statistics of license and testing applicants and related workload of the licensing examiner.

The Division needs relevant facts and statistics for evaluating the performance of its personnel and Board activity. Many past records have not been collected and maintained, such as:

1. Number of dentists and dental hygienists licensed in past years;

2. Records of those applicants failing the examination;
3. Numbers of applicants denied the chance to take the examination due to lack of qualifications;
4. Number of complaints and criticisms about the performance of the Board and its staff;
5. Correspondence workload of license examiners; and
6. Number of persons requesting applications.

It is to the advantage of the Division to keep these records in order to support its budget request, evaluate its personnel and keep the Board informed as to its progress. Also, feedback from the Board and the public should be encouraged to determine whether staff performance is adequate.

Recommendation No. 10

Legislation should be pursued which will allow all interest groups to be adequately represented on the Board of Dental Examiners.

The Board regulates dentists, dental hygienists and dental specialists for the purpose of public protection. The Board is currently composed of five dentists, one dental hygienist and one public member.

There are numerous dental specialist fields such as orthodontics and oral surgery. The statutory qualification requirements for specialists are more restrictive than for dentists, by requiring at least two years of advanced education in the specialty. By requiring that a dental specialist be on the Board, the State ensures that the views of the specialists are adequately represented.

In addition, the public should have its views represented on the Board since the purpose of the Board is for public protection. It is questionable whether one public member adequately represents the public interests. The State of California, through its 1977 Public Members Act requires that one-third (1/3) of all health related Board members be represented by the public. California feels that the public's confidence and well-being have been enhanced by this law.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

Limited Analysis

The following analyses indicate both positive and negative attainments as Board activities relate to the public need factors defined in the "Sunset" law. These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive in nature, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

I. The extent to which the board, commission or program has operated in the public interest.

1. The Board of Dental Examiners has composed regulations governing the administration of general anesthesia. Regulations were also drafted to describe the dental clinical examination subjects and grading. However, because the examination regulations were not filed in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, they did not go into effect and will have to be refiled by the Board.
2. In the larger urban areas of Alaska, the per capita ratio of dentists to population is equal to or less than the national average of 1 dentist to 2,000 population. However, in the rural areas, the ratio is much higher (see Appendix J) which demonstrates a shortage of dentists in these areas.
3. The Board of Dental Examiners has held an average of four meetings per year, only one clinical examination per year, and started 28 investigations in the last five years of which ten have been completed.

II. The extent to which the operation of the board, commission, or agency program has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices which it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

1. The Division of Occupational Licensing (OL) has not maintained updated records, files, and statistics for Board use (see Recommendation No. 9 and the OL Performance Audit Report).
2. Investigations of dental complaints have not been made in a timely manner. The investigative section of OL had spent an average of 12.8 months on each of eighteen (18) unresolved cases as of July 30, 1978 (see the OL Performance Audit Report).

III. The extent to which the board, commission or agency has recommended statutory changes which are generally of benefit to the public interest.

1. The only statutory change which the Board evaluated before their July 1978 meeting was to increase the grade for passing part of the clinical examination. It is highly questionable whether this would be in the public's interest.

IV. The extent to which the board, commission or agency has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of service, economy of service, and availability of service which it has provided.

1. The Board has held special meetings to listen to dental applicants and evaluate special cases.

2. The Board received and reviewed a report from the Southeast Alaska Health Association concerning dental manpower shortages in southeast communities. Because of the report, the license examiner from OL was authorized by the Board to tell prospective dental applicants about the shortages.

V. The extent to which the board, commission or agency has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions.

1. The Board advertises in newspapers to encourage public participation and also sends notices to interested associations. During the last two and a half years, approximately one advertisement was published per newspaper for a meeting. Slightly more advertisements were published for examinations, and one advertisement was published for the Board's regulations. This complies with the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.

2. During the past five years, six persons other than Board members and state employees were present during Board meetings as recorded by Board minutes.

VI. The efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board, commission or agency filed with it, with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned, or with the office of the ombudsman have been processed and resolved.

1. Three complaints about the fairness of the Board's clinical examination were recorded with OL and adjudicated by independent hearing officers in favor of the complainant. Some of the officers' findings have not been corrected (see Recommendation No. 2).
2. One complaint filed with the Ombudsman's Office concerned a license decision by the Board. The complaint was found justified and was quickly corrected by the Board.

VII. The extent to which a board or commission which regulated entry into an occupation or profession has presented qualified applicants to serve the public.

1. A total of 25 complaints in four years are on file with CL against state dental practitioners.
2. However, the dental clinical examination does not adequately test an applicant's competence as supported by the following:
 - a. The test does not comply with statutory requirements;
 - b. In a questionnaire, 9 of 15 dental schools evaluated the test as inadequate;
 - c. Most other states test additional subjects.

VIII. The extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board, commission or agency to its own activities and the area of activity or interest.

1. Dental and dental hygiene applications require unnecessary information such as an applicant's picture, race, and sex. This is a violation of Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (see the OL Performance Audit Report).

IX. The extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting or other changes are necessary to enable the agency, board or commission to better serve the interests of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.

Please refer to the previous section, Findings and Recommendations.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
REVENUES COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURES
 Fiscal Year 1978
 (UNAUDITED)

Average Revenue (See Schedule 1 and Note 1)	\$ 10,200
Expenditures (See Note 2)	<u>22,000</u>
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues	<u><u>\$(11,800)</u></u>

Schedule 1
 Types of Revenues

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Collection Time</u>
<u>Dental Hygienist</u>		
Application Fee	\$25	With application
Registration Fee	20	Biennially
Reinstatement Fee	25	With reinstatement
Late Fee Fine	10	With late payment
<u>Dentists</u>		
License Fee	30	With issuance of license
Temporary Permits	25	With issuance of permit
Out of State Registra- tion	40	Biennially
Registration	40	Biennially
Branch Office Registra- tion	40	Biennially
Examination Fee	50	With taking examina- tion
Specialty License	30	With issuance of license

Note 1

Most of the dental revenues are composed of renewal registration fees. These fees are collected once every two years and cause revenues in one year to be much greater than the revenues collected in the next year. Therefore, we calculated

and reported an average of the revenues collected in fiscal years 1977 and 1978 in order to obtain an accurate representation of collected revenues.

Note 2

Expenditures include those made by Board members, such as travel and per diem and an allocated percentage (estimated) of total administrative expenses of OL. They do not include expenditures for efforts of other departments, such as the Department of Law, that may be assisting the Board and OL.

APPENDIX B
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

Description

The operative section of the dental examination is comprised of three parts:

1. Preparation and finishing of amalgams;
2. Preparation and finishing of gold inlays; and
3. Preparation and finishing of gold foils.

A dental applicant must furnish his/her own patient and many of the tools. The examination has recently been given in the Teamster's Clinic in Anchorage.

The oral diagnostic examination is a multiple choice test created and graded by the American Association of Dental Examiners. In this test, an applicant views a slide and question and registers the grade on a grade sheet.

The dental hygiene clinical examination grades the abilities of removing calcifications from teeth and other dental abilities by the applicant. Applicants must also furnish his/her own patient and tools.

Alaska Dental Examination Statistics

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>Pass Rate Four-Year Average</u>
Dental Applicants	25	28	31	33	
Number of Fails	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>	
Number of Passes	<u>12</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>16</u>	
Percentage Pass Rate	<u>48%</u>	<u>82%</u>	<u>81%</u>	<u>48%</u>	<u>64%</u>

1976 National Average of Dental Licensure 82%¹

1975 National Average of Dental Licensure 85%¹

(1) Statistics obtained from the American Dental Association.

Dental Hygiene Examination Statistics

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976¹</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>Pass Rate Three-Year Average</u>
Examination Applicants	15	28	N/A	9	
Number of Fails	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	N/A	<u>1</u>	
Number of Passes	<u>15</u>	<u>28</u>	N/A	<u>8</u>	
Percentage Pass Rate	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>89%</u>	<u>96%</u>

Note: National averages for the dental hygiene examination are not available.

(1) 1976 figures are not available due to lack of records.

APPENDIX C

ANALYSIS OF FILED COMPLAINTS AGAINST
DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

	<u>1978¹</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malpractice Complaints	0	5	2	0	0	7
Administrative Com- plaints	3	6	3	1	1	14
Practicing without Licenses	0	1	2	1	0	4
Unfair practical examination given by Board	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>28</u>

(1) Statistics as of June 30, 1978

APPENDIX D

ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS

<u>Licensed Dental Practitioners</u>	<u>As of July 10, 1978</u>
Dentists licensed and working in State	256
Out of State dentists licensed in State	89
Dental Hygienists	146
Dental Specialists	23
Board Meetings:	
Average number of meetings per year (excluding telephone conferences)	4 meetings
Average time length per meeting	4 hours

APPENDIX E

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS

1. What do you believe to be the goals and objectives of the Board of Dental Examiners?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses (See Note 1 and 2)</u>
To regulate and assure quality practitioners.	4
To protect consumers and citizens of the State.	3
To conduct examinations for dentists and dental hygienists.	4
To acknowledge and investigate suspected violations of dental applicants.	3
To interpret dental acts, to write regulations and establish policies and guidelines.	1
To prevent unqualified persons from engaging in dentistry and dental hygiene.	1

2. How does the Board measure its progress in meeting its goals and objectives?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
No established goals and measures.	5
Refuse to license those who do not pass examinations and investigate complaints.	1
Feedback from dental community, the public and the Legislature.	1
Write regulations.	1
Review rules and regulations in State Dental Practice Act.	1

3. Is the staff from the Department of Commerce and/or other departments adequate to perform and enforce all laws and regulations relating to the Board of Dental Examiners? What staff support services are provided adequately? Inadequately?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
Administrative and secretarial services are adequate.	5

3. (Cont'd.)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
Investigatory services are adequate.	2
Investigatory services are inadequate.	4
No opinion.	1

4. Are the dental procedures used in the clinical examination pertinent and relevant to the dental profession being regulated? Are the questions on the written examination pertinent and relevant? Please mention any studies and/or other support backing your opinion.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
Examination procedures and subjects are relevant.	6
Doubt on one part of exam.	1

5. What evidence exists demonstrating that the absence of dental regulations and/or the Board would be detrimental to the public's best interest?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
Legislature's implied conclusion.	2
Observation of dental patients shows dental work in other states falls below minimum standard.	1
Observation of clinical examination.	2
Court cases.	1
A set standard of care.	1

6. Are there any statutes or regulations that you believe to be obsolete, vague, unduly restrictive, and/or inadequate to provide the Board with the responsibility and power to properly govern the purpose and activities of the Board? Please list and explain.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
None.	1
Advertising restriction.	1
No ability to revoke licenses without legal involvement.	1
Examination statutes need to be clarified.	1
Repeal of dental temporary permit statutes.	2

7. What chances could be made to the Board which would improve its service to the public?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Board Members' Responses</u>
None.	3
Board should be given more direct investigatory, regulatory, and disciplinary authority.	2
Biannual examination.	1
More exposure to public.	1
Allow anyone who wishes to, to practice dentistry. Certify those applicants who take and pass the test.	1

Note 1

Number of Board Members	<u>7</u>
Number of Board Member Responses	<u>7</u>
Response Rate	<u>100%</u>

Note 2

Each Board member responded to each question with several answers. Therefore, total responses for each question may exceed the number of Board members.

APPENDIX F

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO DENTAL SCHOOLS
(see Note 2)

	Percentage (See Note 1)	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Do you believe that dental school graduates will understand the enclosed regulations and requirements describing the tested procedures?	86%	14%
2. Are these clinical procedures taught at your school?	100%	0%
3. Do you believe these procedures test basic principles that could be easily performed by your graduates?	93%	7%
4. Do you believe that practicing dentists actually perform these procedures?	93%	7%
5. In your opinion, does the testing of those procedures adequately measure the competency of a prospective dentist?	40%	60%
6. Does your state have a required clinical examination that covers similar subjects as Alaska's?	100%	0%

Note 1

Number of Schools sent questionnaires	<u>16</u>
Number of Schools responding	<u>15</u>
Response Rate	<u>93%</u>

Note 2

We enclosed a copy of the Alaska Administrative Code regulations describing the dental examination given by the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners, with this questionnaire.

APPENDIX G

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS

(See Note 1)

NAME: _____

3 Responses
Yes No Opinion

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|-----|-----|
| 1. | Have you been able to attend any dental hygienist seminars or classes within the last <u>two</u> years? | 96% | 4% | 0% |
| 2. | If so, how may hours of classes have you had? _____ | Average 25 hrs. | | |
| 3. | Do you believe that State laws should require continuing education before the the following licenses are renewed: | | | |
| | A. dentists? | 92% | 4% | 4% |
| | B. dental hygienists? | 88% | 12% | 0% |
| 4. | Do you believe that the practical examination given by Alaska's Board of Dental Examiners is valid and useful as a tool for measuring the competence of a dental hygienist? | 56% | 18% | 28% |
| 5. | Have you ever had any contact with the Board of Dental Examiners? | 36% | 64% | 0% |
| 6. | If so, was it concerning: | | | |
| | A. new regulations? | 8% | 12% | 80% |
| | B. Board policy? | 0% | 16% | 84% |
| | C. new legislation? | 8% | 12% | 80% |
| | D. investigations? | 0% | 16% | 84% |
| | E. other (please specify)? | 8% | 12% | 80% |
| | _____ | | | |
| | _____ | | | |
| | _____ | | | |
| 7. | Do you believe that the Board of Dental Examiners has operated in the public's best interest? | 72% | 12% | 16% |
| 8. | Do you believe that Alaska's licensing requirements for temporary and permanent licenses are adequate and effective in insuring that the public is protected? | 56% | 28% | 16% |

(See Note 1)

% Responses

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Opinion</u>
9. Do you have any complaints concerning the service provided by the staff support of the Division of Occupational Licensing, Department of Commerce?	16%	80%	4%
Please specify: _____ _____ _____			
10. Have you been aware of any dental facility in Alaska that has had unsanitary conditions which could have harmed the patients' health?	4%	92%	4%
11. Do you feel public health inspections should be performed on a regular basis of all dental facilities?	44%	52%	4%
12. Are you aware of any discriminatory practices involving licensing of minority groups?	4%	92%	4%
13. Additional Comments:			

Note 1

Number of questionnaires sent to State licensed dental hygienists	<u>66</u>
Number of dental hygienists who responded	<u>25</u>
Response rate	<u>37%</u>

APPENDIX H

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO DENTISTS

(See Note 1)

% Responses

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Opinion</u>
1. Have you been able to attend any dental seminars or classes within the last <u>two</u> years?	96%	4%	0%
2. If so, how many hours of classes have you had?	Average 61 hrs.		
3. <u>Do you believe</u> that state laws should require continuing education before the following licenses are renewed:			
A. dentists?	50%	48%	2%
B. dental hygienists?	45%	50%	5%
4. In your practice, do you frequently perform the following:			
A. Class V Gold Foil Restoration?	7%	93%	0%
B. Class II Mod Gold Inlay?	46%	54%	0%
C. Class II Mod Amalgam?	89%	11%	0%
5. Do you believe that the gold foil clinical examination given by Alaska's Board of Dental Examiners is valid and useful as a tool for measuring the competence of a dental applicant?	50%	50%	0%
6. Are there other procedures that you believe are more relevant and useful for testing the abilities of a dental applicant?	52%	23%	25%
Please specify: _____			

7. Do you believe that dentists in other states are as qualified as the dentists in Alaska?	68%	20%	12%
8. Do you believe that Alaska should establish reciprocity agreements for dentist, with other states?	57%	34%	9%
9. Have you ever had any contact with the Board of Dental Examiners?	64%	32%	4%

(See Note 1)
% Responses

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
10. If so, was it concerning:			
A. new regulations?	21%	21%	58%
B. Board policy?	39%	13%	48%
C. new legislation?	23%	16%	61%
D. investigations?	25%	18%	57%
E. other (please specify)?	14%	13%	73%

11. Do you believe that the Board of Dental Examiners have operated in the public's best interest?	86%	11%	3%
12. Do you believe that Alaska's licensing requirements for temporary and permanent licenses are adequate and effective in insuring that the public is protected?	77%	21%	2%
13. Do you have any complaints concerning the service provided by the staff support of the Division of Occupational Licensing, Department of Commerce?	11%	82%	7%
Please specify: _____			

14. Do you believe that all geographical areas within the State are adequately serviced by dentists in private practice?	50%	43%	7%
15. If not, please specify: _____			

16. Have you been aware of or heard of any dental facility in Alaska that has had unsanitary conditions which could have harmed the patients' health?	7%	91%	2%

(See Note 1)

	<u>% Responses</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>NO Opinion</u>
17. Do you believe that health inspections should be performed on a regular basis of all dental facilities?	20%	75%	5%
18. Are you aware of any discriminatory practices involving licensing of minority groups?	0%	98%	2%
19. Additional comments:			

Note 1

Number of questionnaires sent to state licensed dentists	<u>116</u>
Number of dentists who responded	<u>56</u>
Response rate	<u>48%</u>

APPENDIX I

COMPARISON OF ALASKA DENTAL
COSTS TO NATIONAL AVERAGES

Schedule 1 - Dental Cost Comparison

	<u>Alaska¹</u>	<u>U. S.²</u>
1) Examination	\$ 23	\$ 15
2) Single Root Tooth Canal	179	150
3) 2 Surface Amalgan Filling	43	21
4) 3 Surface Amalgan Filling	56	29
5) 2 Surface Inlay	180	125
6) 3 Surface Inlay	204	150
7) Molar Cast Gold Crown	249	200
8) Porcelain Crown	266	225
9) Full Upper Dentures	370	300
10) Entire Series of 14 Films of Radiology	<u>27</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,602</u>	<u>\$1,245</u>
Percentage of U.S.	<u>1.28%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Note 1

Alaska's average was acquired from a Legislative Audit poll of dental offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

Note 2

U. S. average was acquired from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association - 1976 factored through 1978 for inflation.

APPENDIX J

DENTAL MANPOWER SHORTAGE AREAS

<u>Division and Area</u>	<u>Population to Dentist Ratio (see Note 1)</u>
Aleutian Islands	4896 To 0
Bethel	6918 To 1
Bristol Bay Borough	7164 To 0
Kobuk	5022 To 1
Kuskokwim	2247 To 0
Nome	5704 To 1
Outer Ketchikan	2019 To 0
Prince of Wales	2639 To 0
Southeast-Fairbanks	4100 To 0
Upper Yukon	1114 To 0
Valdez-Chitina-Whittier	9905 To 0
Wade-Hampton	3387 To 0
Yukon-Koyukuk	4240 To 0
<u>National Average</u>	<u>1915 To 1</u>

Note 1

Figures from a letter, July 25, 1978, drafted by Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The National Average was obtained from a report by the Southeast Alaska Health System Agency.

RECEIVED

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

JAN 11 AM.
LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT

January 9, 1979

Mr. Gerald Wilkerson
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit
Pouch W
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

We have reviewed your preliminary reports as shown below:

1. Board of Examiners in Optometry
2. Board of Dispensing Opticians
3. Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners
4. Board of Chiropractic Examiners
5. Alaska State Medical Board
6. Board of Veterinary Examiners
7. State Physical Therapy Board
8. Board of Pharmacy
9. Board of Nursing
10. Board of Nursing Home Administrators
11. Board of Dental Examiners
12. Alaska Transportation Commission

We view these reviews of agency programs and activities which are specifically subject to termination in a manner different from those made of State departments or agencies. Usually we in the Executive Branch endeavor to respond directly to each finding and recommendation. However, in regard to the Boards and Commissions, the Executive Branch agency during a public hearing shall demonstrate a public need for its continued existence or the discontinuation of the program, and the extent to which any change in the manner of exercise of its functions or activities may increase efficiency of administration or operation consistent with the public interest.

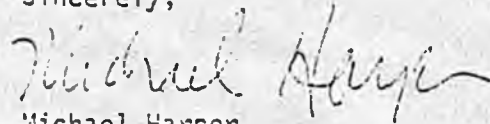
The Executive Branch of Alaska Government has made an extensive study of the above Boards and the Alaska Transportation Commission. We are continuing to study those entities, their origin, their present and future potential, and other related subjects in conjunction with Alaska statutes 24 and 44 (Sunset Legislation). As prescribed in AS 44.66.050 one or more legislative hearings are to be held to receive testimony from the public, the Commissioner of the department having administrative responsibility for each, and the members of the Boards or Commission involved. During those hearings we will present our findings and recommendations affecting each of the foregoing Boards and the Alaska Transportation Commission.

Mr. Gerald Wilkerson
Page 2

January 9, 1979

Accordingly, we are presenting this in addition to the responses from the Department of Commerce, Department of Law, and the individual Board or Commission members and others on an interim basis.

Sincerely,



Michael Harper
Administrative Assistant
to the Governor

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

December 15, 1978

Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit
Pouch W
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

The following comments are in response to the Performance Review of the Board of Dental Examiners submitted by the Division of Legislative Audit.

Recommendation No. 1. We agree there may be a shortage of dental manpower in several areas of Alaska. The majority of these shortages are in rural areas; however, it is our belief the main reason is purely economic and may not be a function of "encouraging . . . dentists to become licensed in Alaska."

The board should explore the possibility of licensing out-of-State applicants by reciprocity, although licensing by endorsement is considered to be more desirable. We agree that examinations should be given more often, provided the number of applicants warrants such a practice. The potential conflict of interest is noted, yet the inference that board members may act in restraint of competition is a charge of a serious nature. However, AS 08.36.130 would have to be changed as it states . . . the board shall appoint from its membership an examination committee.

The participation in regional examinations will be discussed, again, with the board at a future meeting.

Regulations governing expanded duties of dental hygienists have been discussed and are presently being promulgated by a sub-committee of the board for its consideration at the next meeting.

December 15, 1978

Recommendation No. 2. Agreed. This recommendation has been discussed with the board. The evaluation of the Regional Testing Board should also provide answers to most, if not all, of these recommendations.

Recommendation No. 3. Agreed. The temporary permit provision should be retained and permits should be issued to qualified applicants, regardless of where in the State they wish to practice dentistry.

Recommendation No. 4. Agreed. However, great care must be taken in defining moral turpitude and unprofessional conduct. A list of violations that could be interpreted as all inclusive would be difficult to compile. Any violation not listed would still be an infraction, but difficult to enforce.

Recommendation No. 5. We agree that continuing education is a step toward improving quality dental care.

Recommendation No. 6. Agreed. The board is aware of this requirement and is preparing its report for FY '78.

Recommendation No. 7. Agreed. Legislation has been introduced concerning unconstitutional advertising restrictions.

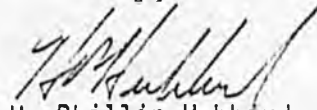
Recommendation No. 8. Agreed. Discussions will be held with the board at future meetings and appropriate steps taken to include this information in the budget documents for the division.

Recommendation No. 9. Agreed. Complete reorganization of files and improved procedures within the agency are expected to be accomplished by the end of calendar year 1979. Some gathering of data is currently being initiated.

Recommendation No. 10. Disagree. Legislation requiring representation of all professional areas would be cumbersome to administer. Present statutory provisions do not preclude membership of any licensed dentist. We agree that public membership could be increased, but would oppose an increase in total membership of the board.

We appreciate the time and efforts expended by your staff.

Sincerely,


H. Phillip Hubbard
Commissioner

January 3, 1979

The following is my response to the State of Alaska Division of Legislative Audit Performance Review of the Board of Dental Examiners.

Report Conclusion

Pg. 7

Paragraph 3--No substantiation for statement that there is a man power shortage in Alaska. There may be a man power distribution problem, but this is because of human preference in life style as documented by the A.D.A. Presently there are adequate numbers of dentists within the state who are willing to cover more remote and sparsely populated areas as evidenced by a listing of these dentists kept by the Alaska Dental Society. Use of the list is infrequent, indicating that perhaps it is the consumer of dentistry who is not interested in the services available and not the fact that the man power isn't available. It is the Board's opinion that a man power shortage does not exist and therefore this factor should not be used as a reason for more than one clinical examination in a year.

Paragraph 3--The Board is presently working on the reciprocity statute as it relates to licensing dentists who are licensed in another state. The Board will in most likelihood recommend to the legislature a change in this statute to one of licensing by credential since there have been no reciprocal agreements made with another state over the past several years. Licensure by credentials would allow for licensing without reciprocity and also allow for close Board scrutiny of an applicant, thus assuring the same degree of quality.

Paragraph 3--The low pass rate for dental applicants is not an indication of the Board's reluctance to pass, as the report seems to indicate, but an indication of the lessening of the quality of the dentist being produced. This low rate is not unique to Alaska. For instance, Washington State failed over 50% of the University of Washington Dental Students last year. I believe Utah passed less than 30% of it's applicants.

Paragraph 4--The Board is and has been attempting to correct deficiencies in it's examinations. However, due to procedural errors and a constant and rapid change in the dental environment, the Board has had some difficulty in this area. This combined with the lack of funding for sufficient meeting time has led to constant delays and postponement of this important area of the Board's activities.

Paragraph 5--No activity has been forth coming concerning license violations many due to lack of funding and lack of meeting time to undertake this task.

Paragraph 6--The Board is presently evaluating the Alaska Statutes and attempting to formulate recommendations to the legislature for statute changes it deems necessary to make them more responsive to consumer as well as the dental profession. Once again, funding for meetings and a lack of time and information concerning suggested changes has hampered the Board's activities.

Findings and Recommendations

Rec. #1

Paragraph #1--The Board views the federal studies with reservations since: 1. Conditions change rapidly, 2. The federal government is trying to establish its HMO concept in Alaska (with the resultant loss of state supervision and control of such a program), 3. The Alaska Dental Society surveys contradict the federal and even the A.D.A. statistics, 4. The Alaska Dental Society list for rural areas is rarely used.

Paragraph #2--As far as the Board is concerned, there is no conflict of interest in the grading system. This is a serious charge to make especially by a lay person regarding a profession he know little or nothing about. The Board is only interested in seeing that the public receives qualified dentistry.

Rec. #2

The Board is trying to rectify all of the areas mentioned in this recommendation plus many others it recognizes as potential problems. Lack of funding and time are the primary elements working to the Board's disadvantage in trying to cope with these problems. Attempts are being made to take the necessary steps to answer to our known problems.

Rec. #3

The Board is on record to remove the permit from the statutes. It's now up to the legislature to do so. This will be included in the Board's recommendations for statute changes.

Rec. #4

We agree something should be done here. In addition the Board should have greater power with less red tape to carry out judgements on offenses.

Rec. #5

Although the concept of requiring continuing education is good, there are some inherent drawbacks. First of all, attendance must be assured. Secondly, the quality of the courses being offered must be such that it will benefit the student (dentist) as well as the public. Thirdly, the courses offered must be readily available so that requirements can be met. This is not easy in Alaska, let alone for those working in the bush. Fourthly administration of such programs is astronomical. California just recently has dropped its continuing education requirements primarily because of the administrative problems with it.

Dr. Hansen's report from the National A.A.D.E. meeting in October which is included in the Board's minutes has information pro and con for this recommendation and should be reviewed.

Rec. #6

For some reason this has been overlooked in the past, but attempts are being made to rectify this.

Rec. #7

The Board recognizes this problem and is in the process of reviewing the statutes in order to make recommendations, but funds, time, and lack of meetings make this a somewhat impossible task.

Rec. #8

Good idea.

Rec. #9

Good idea.

Rec. #10

The Board currently has a specialist on it though it doesn't think this is necessary. The statutes give the Board the power to enlist the services of specialists or general practitioners for that matter, when it deems their help necessary in order to carry out its functions.

Additional public members would not be objectionable as long as they have an interest in dentistry and can contribute to the public's well being. The Board presently consists of five dentists and two public members, one of whom is a dental hygienist. Additional public members would thus exceed the 1/3 you are recommending.

With public hearings and the capability of the board to call on the public for additional comment and information, the Board feels the present composition adequately represents the public interests.

Analysis # VIII

This information is necessary so that the examining officer can identify the applicant as the person taking the examination. The Board members only know the applicants by exam number, thus have no means of assuring the examinee is the person who applied.

Generally the Board is trying to be fulfilling its obligations to the public. However, it is greatly hampered due to limited funds, which in turn limits meeting times and lengths of meetings. Admittedly past records from the Board are not the best, but attempts are being made to rectify this situation.

The Board is presently gathering information concerning points presented in the audit plus several others that are not mentioned. Sufficient time has not past to gather all of the information the Board feels it needs to make or propose necessary legislative and regulatory changes. In addition, insufficient funding and meeting time has not allowed the Board to review and sort out materials it has gathered. The Board is willing to do the job it is charged with, but it needs help in doing it.

I am sure there are many areas I have briefly touched on that could be discussed in much greater detail. If it is the desire of the legislature

to make the Board more effective, I would suggest you solicit their help, but remember they are a volunteer Board. They must be compensated in some way or their participation will be limited due to their professional responsibilities to their patients, not to mention the tremendous financial losses incurred while serving in a Board capacity at a meeting, Etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur S. Hansen DDS

Arthur S. Hansen, D.D.S.
President
Alaska Board of Dental Examiners

JOHN F. KOBYLARZ, D.M.D.

BOX 830

SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669

Rec. #1

I disagree with this recommendation on the grounds that no where in ASOS.02 or ASOS.00 is the Board charged with encouraging dentists to practice in Alaska. I think the State in its powers should protect the consumer, not try to coddle the citizen from birth to death. I do not believe it is the intent of the State or its agencies to regulate the supply and demand of the marketplace. As for the reported manpower shortage presented by the Southeast Alaska Health System Agency and South Central Health Planning and Development Agency, they are as best as I can tell addressing shortage in care for public funded health programs, (S.H.C.) and community health centers that would be handled by the Public Health Service. The Alaska Dental Society has a list of dentists that will go out into the bush when those services are needed.

The Board has discussed joining regional testing services but the consensus of opinion at this time is to not do so. The primary reason for this posture is the loss of ascertainment of quality of the clinical operator being judged by non-residents of this state.

Reciprocity is addressed in the State as statute under OS.36.210 and OS.36.22.

Rec. #2

- (1) Agree. Will remedy in the future.
- (2) A Health question has been included for this examination. I believe it has been incorporated in the regulations.
- (3) Agree.
- (4) The Board had written exam procedures for hygienists. They were given them with their applications at the meeting the night before the exam started.
- (5) Standardization is now being worked on.
- (6) Agree.
- (7) An understanding of casting principles will clarify this utilization of commercial laboratories.

JOHN F. KOBYLARZ, D.M.D.
BOX 830
SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669

Rec. #3

- (3) Agree.
- (4) Agree.
- (5) Agree.
- (6) Agree.
- (7) Agree.
- (8) Agree.
- (9) Agree. Being done at this time.
- (10) Agree.
- (11) To have a specialist but not by statute.

July 6, 1979

Jana Varrati
730 Foothill Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Ms. Varrati:

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development is proposing to adopt several changes in the Alaska Administrative Code relative to the Board of Dental Examiners.

I have enclosed a copy of their Notice in order to make you aware of these amendments. I would be interested in knowing if you are in agreement with this action.

My interim office address in Anchorage is:

Senate Commerce Committee
1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99501
Telephone: 278-1581

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brad Bradley
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Board of Dental Examiners, under authority vested by AS 08.32.110(b), proposes to adopt regulations in Title 12 of the Alaska Administrative Code to implement AS 08.32, as follows:

12 AAC 28 is amended by adding sections which:


- (1) permit certification of a dental hygienist to administer nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation and local anesthetic agents under specified conditions;
- (2) establish minimum educational and procedural requirements for a dental hygienist applying for certification and for board approval of a college or university holding a course of instruction in the administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation or local anesthetic agents; and
- (3) establish provisions relating to expiration and renewal of certifications, suspension and revocation of certifications, registers of board approved courses of instruction and of certified dental hygienists and definitions of various terms used in the proposed regulations.

Notice is also given that any person interested may present written statements or arguments relevant to the action proposed by mailing them so that they are received by 4:30 p.m. on July 31, 1979 to:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Board of Dental Examiners - Hygiene Regulations
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to the above address.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Board of Dental Examiners, upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested person, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described above without further notice or may decide to take no action on them.



Charles R. Webber
Commissioner

6/26/79
Date

July 6, 1979

Joshua Wright, D.D.S.
3401 Denali
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Dr. Wright:

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development is proposing to adopt several changes in the Alaska Administrative Code relative to the Board of Dental Examiners.

I have enclosed a copy of their Notice in order to make you aware of these amendments. I would be interested in knowing if you are in agreement with this action.

My interim office address in Anchorage is:

Senate Commerce Committee
1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99501
Telephone: 278-1581

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brad Bradley
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING LICENSURE AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST IN ALASKA

No person may practice, offer or attempt to practice, or advertise or announce himself as prepared or qualified to practice dental hygiene without a license.

LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION:

The following documents must be on file before you will be considered for examination:

1. Completed and notarized application
2. Certified copy of dental hygiene diploma
3. Certified copy of any state license now held
4. Photograph
5. Certificate from the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination
(Note: If you have not passed the National Boards, you will be required to take the written exam given by the Board of Dental Examiners)
6. Application fee of \$25

The registration fee of \$20 may be submitted before the examination and must be submitted before you will be issued a license.

LICENSURE BY WAIVER OF EXAMINATION:

A dental hygienist who holds a certificate from a school accredited by the American Dental Association and who has had two years of practical experience is qualified to practice in the state without examination upon registering with the Board.

The following documents must be on file before you will be considered for licensure by waiver of examination:

1. Completed and notarized application
2. Certified copy of dental hygiene diploma
3. Certified copy of any state license now held
4. Proof of two years practice in dental hygiene
5. Photograph
6. Fees: (a) Application fee of \$25
(b) Registration fee of \$20
7. Certified copy of National Board Dental Hygiene Examination scores or certificate.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL EVIDENCE SUPPORTING YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION. ALL COPIES OF DOCUMENTS OR LICENSES MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC TO BE TRUE COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OR LICENSE.

YOUR APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WILL BE RETURNED IF THEY ARE NOT COMPLETE AND IN PROPER FORM.

Application for Examination to Practice Dental Hygiene in the State of Alaska

This application must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Board of Dental Examiners of Alaska at least thirty days before the date of the examination

I hereby make application for a license to practice Dental Hygiene in the State of Alaska, and submit the following statements, under oath and herewith enclose the required application fee of \$25.00

ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUPPLIED. IF APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE, IT WILL BE RETURNED OR REJECTED.

Every false statement knowingly made by the applicant in this paper, or connived at in any clause in this application, is good cause for rejection or for revocation of license after license has been granted

→The Applicant Must Give Full Answers to the Following:

Name Age years
Full name

Date of birth Place of birth
Month Day Year City County State

Present residence
Street Address City County State

Permanent address
Street Address City County State

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

Race Sex Native of Complexion

Color of hair Color of eyes Height

{ Stout }
 { Medium } Weight Marks

{ Thin }

(Cross out words not answering description)

HIGH SCHOOL

City State School Name Year graduated

I have High School Certificate No. issued on the ... day of ... 19 ...
 by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of
State or Territory

I have credit for of college work. I received the degree of
No. majors, semester hours, or clock hours
 from on the ... day of ... 19 ...
College or University

I was granted a Diploma as a Dental Hygienist by
 located at State of on the ... day of ... 19 ...

I agree that if I fail to appear (on time) for the examination, at the place stated that the fee shall not be returned, but that I may file a new application (without fee) and take the next regular examination. In failing to appear on time for that examination I agree that the fee shall be forfeited.

I also agree to present my Dental Hygiene Diploma, and, any state licenses I may hold for the inspection of the board at the time of, and before I start the examination.

(CERTIFIED COPIES OF PHOTOSTATS OF SUCH DOCUMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED)

I also agree to come to the examination equipped with all instruments and materials necessary to perform any practical examination the board may assign me

An applicant who has a diploma from a Dental Hygiene school that is accredited by the American Dental Association and who can present proof of two years' practice in Dental Hygiene, may secure a certificate without examination.

I hold an unrevoked license to practice Dental Hygiene in the following states of the United States and have practiced under such licenses the number of years following each state: (Give date and number of each license)

.....
.....
.....

Give names and addresses of all dentists for whom you have worked as a dental hygienist during the past five years:

.....
.....
.....

Are you a citizen of the United States..... Native born or naturalized?.....

If naturalized, give date and place of naturalization.....

Has your surname ever been changed?..... If so, give date and place of such change.....

Give original surname.....

Have you ever practiced dental hygiene illegally?..... Have you ever been convicted of, or indicted for, any crime?.....

If so, state facts in the case.....

Are you free from contagious or infectious disease?.....

I hereby expressly waive all provisions of law forbidding any physician or other person who has attended or examined me, or who may hereafter attend or examine me, from disclosing any knowledge or information which he thereby acquired, and I hereby consent that he may disclose such knowledge or information to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alaska.

AFFIDAVIT

State of _____ }
County of _____ } ss. _____, being duly sworn, says that

_____ he is the person referred to in this application and that the statements herein contained are true in every respect, and that the attached photograph is a true likeness of himself taken within the last six months.

(Signature of Applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19____

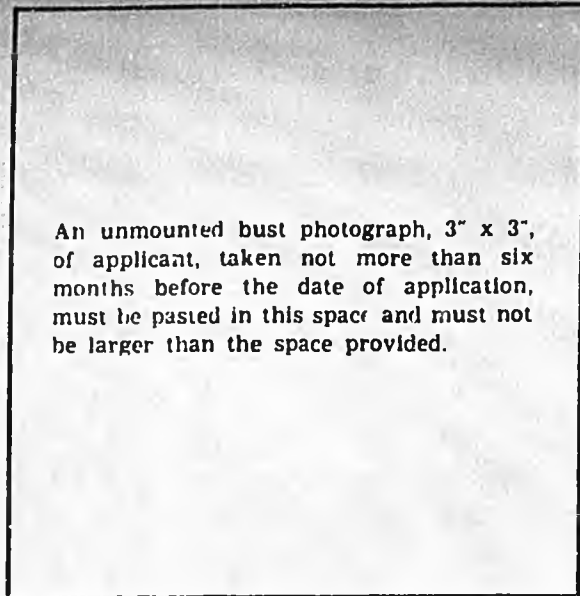
Witness my hand and seal hereunto attached

(Seal)

Signature of Notary Public

My commission expires _____

Secretary, Alaska Board of Dental Examiners



For Dental Hygienists who meet the requirements of over two years of practical experience and qualify to practice by registration:

This certifies that I am practicing Dentistry in the State of _____ and that _____ has been working for me as a Dental Hygienist for _____ years and that _____ is worthy of receiving a license to practice Dental Hygiene in the State of Alaska.

Name.....
Signature of Dentist

Address.....

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19____

Notary Public in and for the State of _____
Residing at _____

CERTIFICATE OF DEAN OF DENTAL COLLEGE GRANTING DEGREE

I Hereby Certify, That _____
matriculated in the _____ Dental College on the _____ day of _____
and attended _____ courses of instruction, graduating with the degree of Dental Hygienist on the _____ day of _____, 19____

I Further Certify, That the photograph as appears in this application is the likeness of the said _____ and the identical person to whom the said diploma was originally issued.

(Signature of Dean)

(SEAL OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY)

CERTIFICATE OF MORAL CHARACTER
(To be signed by a reputable businessman)

This Certifies that I am acquainted with _____ that I believe
.....to be of good moral character and I hereby recommend.....as entirely worthy to receive the
license for which.....he has applied.

Name.....

Address.....

Subscribed and sworn to before me this.....day of....., 19.....

(Seal)

Notary Public for the State of

Residing at.....

My comission expires

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY OF BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE IN WHICH
APPLICANT IS NOW PRACTICING**

I,, Secretary of
Official Name of Board

hereby certify that.....
was granted State Certificate No.....to practice..... in the State of.....
on the..... day of....., 19....., on the basis of.....

I further certify that the preliminary and professional education as outlined on Page 1 of this application
was verified by this Board prior to the examination of the applicant.

Acting in behalf of the.....
Official name of Board

I hereby certify to the reputability of.....
as appears of record in this office, and recommend him to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alaska as a fit
and proper person to receive a license.

I also certify that the photograph as appears in this application is the likeness of the said
.....and the person named in the above endorsement.

(SEAL)

Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A LICENSE AS A DENTIST IN ALASKA

No person, except those specifically exempted from the Alaska Statutes pertaining to the practice of dentistry in Alaska, may practice or attempt to practice dentistry without a license or permit, and a current certificate of registration. All applicants for a license must pass an examination before the Alaska State Board of Dental Examiners. Alaska has no reciprocity.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

All copies of documents must be certified by a Notary Public to be true copies of the original documents. Copies no larger than 9 1/2" by 11" are preferred. Your application and supporting documents will be returned if they are not complete and in proper form.

The examination fee is \$50 and must be paid by certified check or money order only. The complete and notarized application, supporting documents and fee must be in the hands of the Department at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the examination. This fee shall in no case be refunded if the applicant is found to be eligible. A noncitizen must have declared his/her intention to become a U.S. citizen. An applicant must be a graduate of a dental school approved by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association at the time of graduation.

LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION:

Examinations are held at least once a year. The next examination will be held beginning: June 13, 1979 Application deadline: May 13, 1979

at: Fairbanks, Alaska

the following must be on file at least thirty days before the date scheduled for an examination before you will be considered for examination:

1. Completed and notarized application form.
2. Certified copy of your dental school diploma.
3. Certified copy of any state license now held.
4. Verification of the status of your license in all states in which you hold or have held licenses. Two forms are enclosed.
5. Autographed photograph.
6. Examination fee of \$50.
7. Certified copy of your National Board Certificate.

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING
POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

I HEREBY APPLY for a license to practice Dentistry in the State of Alaska, and submit the following statements, under oath, and herewith enclose the required documents and fees.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT

All information requested in this application must be supplied by the applicant. Each question must be answered fully, truthfully, and accurately. Any omissions, or inaccuracies are grounds for disapproval and rejection. Section 08.36.310(1) of the Dental Practice Act provide that deceit, fraud, or wilful misrepresentation of a material fact is cause for suspension, revocation or annulment of licensure. If the space for any answer is insufficient, the applicant may complete his answer on a rider signed by him and specifying the number of the question to which it relates. Type or print all requested data.

TEMPORARY PERMIT

If applying for a temporary permit according to AS 08.36.280, please list the area(s) in which you wish to practice. _____

APPLICANT

1. Name in full _____ S. S. No. _____
2. Present residence _____ Zip Code _____
3. Permanent residence _____ Zip Code _____
4. Place of birth _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____
5. Are you a citizen of the United States? _____ Native born or naturalized _____
If naturalized, give date and place of naturalization _____
6. Has your surname ever been changed? _____ If so, give date and place of such change _____
Give original surname _____
7. Color of hair _____ Color of eyes _____ Sex _____
Height _____ Weight _____ Marks _____

PRE-DENTAL EDUCATION

8. High School _____ City and State _____ Year _____
9. College or University _____ City and State _____
Years of attendance _____ Semester hours _____ Degree _____

DENTAL EDUCATION

10. Dental College _____ City and State _____
Degree (DDS or DMD) _____ Exact date on diploma _____

11. A candidate must have passed both parts of the National Board examinations or he will be required to take the Alaska Dental Board written examination.
 Part I passed _____ Date _____ Part II passed _____ Date _____
12. Have you ever served in the Armed Forces? _____ If so, branch of service _____, date of commission _____, date of discharge _____, rank _____, serial number _____. If separated from the service, state nature of separation and, if other than honorable, specify type and circumstances surrounding your release. Give full particulars as to any conviction by court-martial while serving in the armed forces. _____
13. Other states in which licensed. List state, license number, date of issuance, and years of practice in each state. _____
14. Give addresses of all locations with dates showing length of time spent in each location in which you have practiced during the last 10 years. _____
- During this period, did you always maintain your own office? _____ If not, give names and addresses of dentists by whom you were employed. _____
15. Has any license entitling you to practice dentistry in any state or territory ever been suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined? _____ If so, give full details. _____
16. Are you free from contagious or infectious disease? _____
17. If any of the following answers are YES, explain fully in a signed affidavit.
- | | YES | NO |
|--|-----|-----|
| a. Have you ever practiced dentistry illegally?..... | () | () |
| b. Have you ever been convicted of, or indicted for, any crime?.... | () | () |
| c. Do you have any criminal charges pending against you?..... | () | () |
| d. Have you ever been adjudicated an incompetent or an insane person by any court?..... | () | () |
| e. Have you ever been a voluntary patient in any sanitarium, hospital or mental institution for treatment of mental illness?.. | () | () |
| f. Are you now, or have you ever been, addicted to, or have you undergone treatment for the use of narcotics or drugs or the excessive use of intoxicating liquors?..... | () | () |
| g. Are there any unsatisfied judgments against you resulting from the practice of dentistry?..... | () | () |

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that all credentials supplied by me are true and correct and that the photograph which appears below is a true likeness of myself taken within the past six months. I understand that any false information or falsification of credentials may result in failure to obtain a license to practice Dentistry in Alaska.

 Signature of applicant

 An unmounted bust photograph, 3" x 3", of applicant, taken not more than six months before the date of the application, must be pasted in this space and must not be larger than the space provided.

 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State of _____, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

 Notary Public

 My Commission expires _____

(NOTARY SEAL)

18. CERTIFICATE OF MORAL CHARACTER (To be signed by a reputable businessman)

This certifies that I am acquainted with _____, that I believe him/her to be of good moral character and I hereby recommend him/her as entirely worthy to receive the license for which he/she has applied.

 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State of _____, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

 Name

 Address

(NOTARY SEAL)

 My Commission expires _____

19. CERTIFICATE OF DEAN OF DENTAL COLLEGE GRANTING DEGREE

I hereby certify that _____ matriculated in the _____ Dental College on the _____ day of _____ and attended _____ courses of instruction, graduating with the degree of D.D.S./D.M.D. on the _____ day of _____, 19____. I further certify that the photograph as appears in this application is the likeness of the said _____ and the identical person to whom the said diploma was originally issued.

 Signature of Dean

(SEAL OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY)

20. RECOMMENDATIONS OF PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY OF COUNTY, DISTRICT, OR STATE SOCIETY

_____, President, or _____, Secretary,
of the _____ Dental Society, certify that _____

is a member in good standing of the _____ Dental Society, and that he/she is personally known to me, and that he/she is an ethical practitioner and is of good moral and professional character.

I further certify that the said _____ has been engaged in the reputable and ethical practice of his profession in the State of _____ for _____ years immediately preceding the date of this application, and that he has never been an itinerant or advertising practitioner during the period he has practiced in this State. I have carefully reviewed all the statements made by the applicant herein and believe them to be true in every respect.

I also certify that the photograph as appears in this application is the likeness of the said _____. I hereby recommend the said applicant to the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners for a license to practice in Alaska.

(SEAL OF THE SOCIETY)

President or Secretary

(Note: If society has no seal the signatures must be acknowledged before a notary)

21. CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY OF BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE APPLICANT IS NOW LICENSED (Provide the following certification from the last state in which you attained licensure)

I, _____, Secretary of _____,
(Official name of Board)
hereby certify that _____ was granted State Certificate Number _____ to practice _____ in the State of _____ on the _____ day of _____, 19_____, on the basis of _____.

I further certify that the preliminary and professional education as outlined on Page 1 of this application was verified by this Board prior to the examination of the applicant.

Acting in behalf of the _____
(Official name of Board)

I hereby certify to the reputability of _____ as appears of record in this office, and recommend him to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alaska as a fit and proper person to receive a license.

I also certify that the photograph as appears in this application is the likeness of the said _____ and the person named in the above endorsement.

(SEAL)

Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STATE MEDICAL BOARD
POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Sir: VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE

I am applying for a certificate to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Alaska. The State Medical Board requires that this form be completed by each jurisdiction in which I hold or have held licenses. Please complete the form and return it to me at the address below. Thank you.

Name _____
Address _____

PLEASE DO NOT DETACH
.....

State of _____

Name of Licensee _____

Graduate of _____

License No. _____ issued effective _____

By reciprocity/endorsement _____ by examination _____

License is current _____ lapsed _____

Has the applicant's license ever been suspended or revoked? _____ If so, for what reason?

Derogatory information, if any _____

Comments, if any _____

Signed _____

Title _____

State Board _____

Date _____

[BOARD SEAL]

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.

1689 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone (907) 278-3567

St. Paul

St. George

Nelson Lagoon

False Pass

Sand Point

Balkofski
Ring Cove

Akutan

Unalaska

Nikolski

Atka



April 11, 1979

W. E. "Brad" Bradley
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subject: Support H.B. 401

Dear Mr. Bradley:

You may already be aware of the efforts of the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association to bring adequate dental health care to the people of the Aleutian Islands, but we want you to know more about our mobile dental clinic and the problems we have had in getting authorization from the State Dental Board needed to allow our volunteer dentists and dental students in training to offer their services in Alaska. The Dental Board wants no permits to practice issued even though the present law specifies they are to issue permits - as a matter of fact, they refuse to issue any permits at all.

Last summer we had 22 volunteers standing by waiting to get permission to volunteer their services - we finally ran the program through the United States Public Health Service. The present law and contrived conditions which exist in Alaska prevent any volunteer who would fix kids teeth without charge from practicing.

Representative Osterback has submitted a bill this session which will exempt volunteer dental personnel from permit requirements thus paving the way for a new summer program of dental health care aboard the mobile unit. Your support of H.B. 401 is essential to the health care of all bush Alaskans. Your Yes vote on this measure is essential this session.

Thousands of Alaskans go to work every day of their lives with a tooth ache or in need of dental care because the cost of dentistry is prohibitive. Some fly to Europe for dental work because it's cheaper than staying home and having the work done by an Alaskan dentist.

Eventually of course, over pricing, indifference and greed will move the citizenry to action - and dentistry will become a publicly supported element of our society. In the meanwhile we need your support now of H.B. 401 so we can bring in the sensitive socially conscious volunteers who want to come to Alaska for a few weeks to improve the overall dental health of our people.

Sincerely yours

Patrick Pletnikoff
Executive Director
alp