

**HB**

**319**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/4/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4-7-08

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

HB 319 DENTISTS & DENTAL ASSISTANTS

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

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS CS#B 319 (HES)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

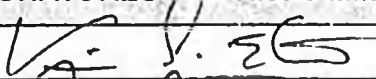

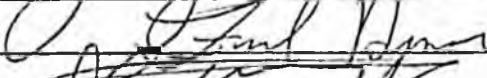
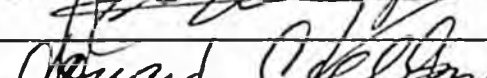
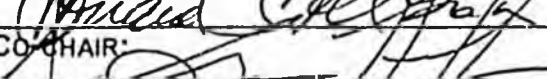
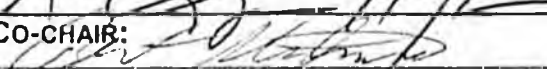

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
CED	4/4/08		*		2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	E. E. E.	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	DYSON	✓			
	HUGHES	✓			
	OLSON			✓	
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	STEDMAN	✓			

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
Bill Version: SCS CSHB 319(HES)  
(S) Publish Date: 4/4/08

Identifier (file name): HB319SCSCS(HES)-CED-OL-04-04-08 Dept. Affected: DCCED  
Title: Dentists & Dental Assistants RDU: Corp, Bus & Prof Licensing (117)  
Component: Corp, Bus & Prof Licensing  
Sponsor: Ramras, et al  
Requester: Senate HES Component Number: 2360

## Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	*	0.0	*	*	*	*	*

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( 1156 )</b>	*	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
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## FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
1156 Receipt Supported Services	*	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
<b>TOTAL</b>	*	0.0	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

### POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

### ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This legislation combines the provisions of two separate bills. The first provision amends AS 08 32 relating to dental hygienists. It would add a new section allowing the Board to issue a restorative function license endorsement to a dental hygienist who has completed the necessary accredited requirements. This legislation would also amend supervision requirements, and call for the board to provide for collaborative agreements for dental hygienists to provide certain services. There are over 500 licensed dental hygienists in the State. The division does not know how many licensees would request an endorsement; therefore, the division is unable to estimate costs and revenue of this provision.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Officer  
Division: Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing  
Approved by: Emil R. Notti, Commissioner  
Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone: (907) 465-2572  
Date/Time: 4/4/08 9:24 AM  
Date: 4/4/2008

FISCAL NOTE # 2

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCS CSHB 319(HES)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

The second provision amends AS 08.36 relating to Dentistry by adding new sections relating to Dental Assistants.

It allows the Board to issue a coronal polishing certificate and restorative function license endorsement to a dental assistant who has completed the necessary accredited requirements and a program of instruction approved by the Board. These sections authorize a dental assistant under direct supervision of a licensed dentist to perform the functions provided by the certification and endorsement. These sections also provide for a licensed dentist to delegate to a dental assistant under indirect supervision specific dental operations and services.

Typically license endorsement and certification fees are \$50 and do not include the costs of additional accredited programs requested or approved by the Alaska State Dental Board. Fees charged cover the cost of the work involved to verify compliance with endorsement requirements and to issue certificates.

Dental assistants are not currently licensed by the division so we can only estimate there may be well over 500 dental assistants in the State. The division does not know how many dental assistants would request an endorsement or certification; therefore, the division is unable to estimate costs and revenue of this provision.

## Number of Dentists and Dental Hygienists by Region

Region	Population	No. of Dentists	No. of Hygienists	No. of Hyg/Den	No. of Hyg/10,000
New England			13,118	1.4	9.4
Middle Atlantic			25,976	0.9	6.6
East North Central			31,851	1.3	7.1
West North Central			9,481	1	4.9
South Atlantic			27,484	1.1	5.3
East South Central			7,998	1.1	4.7
West South Central			12,287	0.9	3.9
Mountain			10,422	1.2	5.7
Pacific			31,149	1.1	6.9
<b>U.S. Total</b>			<b>169,149</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>663,661</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7.47</b>
<b>Anchorage Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>352,282</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7.66</b>
Anchorage Municipality	278,241	197	216	1.1	7.76
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	74,041	29	54	1.9	7.29
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>74,904</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>5.61</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,224	27	29	1.1	5.66
Kodiak Island Borough	13,638	7	9	1.3	6.60
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,042	3	4	1.3	3.98
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>102,005</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.41</b>
Denali Borough	1,823	0	0	-	-
Fairbanks North Star Borough	87,650	47	45	1.0	5.13
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,471	3	0	-	-
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	6,061	0	0	-	-
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>23,669</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.84</b>
Nome Census Area	9,452	5	1	0.2	1.06
North Slope Borough	6,894	2	1	0.5	1.45
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,323	1	0	-	-
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>70,822</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>6.78</b>
Haines Borough	2,207	1	2	2.0	9.06
Juneau City and Borough	31,193	22	26	1.2	8.34
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,125	7	9	1.3	6.86
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	5,497	1	2	2.0	3.64
Sitka City and Borough	8,947	6	5	0.8	5.59
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	3,062	0	0	-	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,172	4	4	1.0	6.48
Yakutat City and Borough	619	1	0	-	-
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>39,979</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.25</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2,659	0	0	-	-
Aleutians West Census Area	5,249	2	1	0.5	1.91
Bethel Census Area	17,085	9	2	0.2	1.17
Bristol Bay Borough	1,073	0	0	-	-
Dillingham Census Area	4,792	2	2	1.0	4.17
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,620	0	0	-	-
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,501	0	0	-	-
<b>Out-of State</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>84</b>		

Source: National data calculated using ICR, 2000 and U.S. Census Bureau

Source: State population data from ADOL&WD, 2005

Source: Dentist/Hygienist data from AK Div of Occupational Licensing, Jan 2007

Chair, House Judiciary  
Labor & Commerce  
Oil & Gas  
Military & Veteran Affairs

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## Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives



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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3004  
Fax: (907) 465-2070  
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004

Representative Jay Ramras  
District 10

### Sponsor Statement for HB 319

**“An Act relating to the practice of dentistry, to dental assistants, and to dental hygienist.”**

The objective of House Bill 319 is to improve access to dental care and reduce treatment costs, by expanding the functions dental assistants and dental hygienist are permitted to perform.

HB 319 does the following:

- Allows a **certified** dental assistant, under a dentist's direct supervision, or a licensed dental hygienist, to place “fillings” into a cavity prepared by a licensed dentist upon completion of coursework and examination.
- Allows a **certified** dental assistant, under a dentist's direct supervision, to polish teeth that are already clean of tarter upon the completion of coursework and examination.
- Authorized a licensed dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic agents under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.
- Permits a licensed dental hygienist to enter into a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist in which the dentist authorizes the dental hygienist to perform certain duties stipulated in HB 319 without the supervision of the dentist.

Oral health plays a key role in overall health. Untreated dental problems can cause pain, effect nutrition, and influence quality of life. Good dental health contributes to a healthy lifestyle and promotes good self esteem. Unfortunately, not all Alaskan's enjoy good dental health due to limitations on dental personnel, geographical barriers, fear of dental treatment, and cost of dental care.

This bill will increase the efficiency of delivering dental care, while upholding the quality of that care.

Chair, House Judiciary  
Labor & Commerce  
Oil & Gas  
Military & Veteran Affairs

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Representative Jay Ramras  
District 10

### **Sectional HB 319- An Act relating to the practice of dentistry, to dental assistants, and to dental hygienists.”**

(Version 25-LS1281VT)

**Section 1** authorizes the Board of Dental Examiners to issue a restorative function endorsement to a licensed dental hygienist if the hygienist has successfully completed an accredited program and has passed the required restorative function examination(s).

A restorative function endorsement will allow a licensed dental hygienist to place restorations, i.e. fillings, into a cavity prepared by a licensed dentist and thereafter carve, contour and adjust contacts and occlusion of the restoration under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

**Section 2** authorizes a licensed dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic agents under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.

Local anesthesia renders a small part of the body, such as a tooth, insensitive to pain without affecting consciousness. Licensed dental hygienists in the state who are certified by the Board have been administering local anesthesia under "direct" or "indirect" supervision of a licensed dentist since 1981. Adding "general" supervision would allow a licensed, Board-certified dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic agents without the requirement for a licensed dentist being present in the dental facility.

**Section 3** includes under dental hygienists' scope of practice the ability to place restorations (section 1) and perform the activities authorized under a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist (section 4).

**Section 4** authorizes the Board to approve a collaborative agreement between a licensed dentist and a licensed dental hygienist and specifies the services and procedures allowed under a collaborative agreement.

Working under a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist, a dental hygienist would be able to initiate treatment within their scope of practice based on his or her assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist.

**Section 5** applies supervision requirements to a dental hygienist operating in conjunction with a licensed dentist under a collaborative agreement.

\* **Section 6.** Adds a new section to AS 08.36 defining dental assistants.

Sec. 08.36.342 Describes the coronal polishing certificate.

Sec. 08.36.344 Describes the restorative function certificate.

Sec. 08.36.346 Describes delegated duties to a dental assistant.

Sec. 08.36.349 Defines "direct" and "indirect" supervision.

\* **Section 7.** AS 08.36.370 Adds the definitions "calculus", "coronal polishing", and "dental assistant".

\* **Section 8.** Repeals AS 08.32.110(d).



April 4, 2008

Senator Bert Stedman, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Support for SCS CSHB 319(HES)

Dear Senator Stedman:

The Alaska State Dental Hygienists' Association (ASDHA) supports HB 319 as amended in the Senate HESS Committee. As dental hygienists, we are a community of professionals devoted to the prevention of disease and the promotion and improvement of the public's health. Dental hygienists are well-prepared to deliver preventative oral health care services to the public safely and effectively. Alaska is a state that suffers from tremendous unmet oral health needs and HB 319 will help improve access to oral health care services. We would appreciate your support for HB 319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Walden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gail Walden  
Alaska State Dental Hygienists' Association

Cc: Senator Dyson  
Senator Elton  
Senator Hoffman  
Senator Huggins  
Senator Olson  
Senator Thomas

## ADHA PRACTICE ACT OVERVIEW CHART OF PERMITTED FUNCTIONS AND SUPERVISION LEVELS BY STATE

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	DC	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS
PROPHYLAXIS	P	N	N	N	N/U	U	N/U	N	N	N	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
X-RAYS	P	N	N	N	N/U	N	N/U	N	N	N	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
LOCAL ANESTHESIA		P	P		P	P	P		P			P	N	P		P	P	P	P	P		P		P	
TOPICAL ANESTHESIA	P	N	N		N/U	U	N/U	N	N	N	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	
FLUORIDE	P	N	N	N	N/U	U	N/U	N	N	N	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
PITFISSURE SEALANTS	P	N	N	N	N/U	U	N/U	N	N	P	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
ROOT PLANING	P	N	N	N	N/U	N	N/U	N	N	P	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
SOFT TISSUE CURETTAGE	P	N	N	N	P	U		N	N	P	P	P/N		N			N	N		N			P	N	P
ADMINISTER N <sub>2</sub> O		P	P		P	P			P				P	P		P	N	P						P	
STUDY CAST IMPRESSIONS	I	N	N	N	N/U	N	N/U	N	N	P	P	P/N	P	N	P	N	N	N	P	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
PLACE PERIO DRESSINGS	P	N	P		N/U	N	N/U	N	P	N	P	P/N			P	N	N	N		P	N	N	N/U	N	P
REMOVE PERIO DRESSING	P	N	P	N	N/U	N	N/U	N	P	N	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
PLACE SUTURES		N	P									P/N													
REMOVE SUTURES	P	N	N	N	N/U	N	N/U	N	P	N	P	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	N	P
APPLY CAVITY - LINERS & BASES	P				N/U	N				P	P					N		N					N/U	N	
PLACE TEMPORARY RESTORATIONS	P	N	N		N/U	N				N	P	P/N				N		N		N	P	N	P	N	
REMOVE TEMPORARY RESTORATIONS	P	N	N		N/U	N				N	P	P/N				N		N				P	P	N	
PLACE AMALGAM RESTORATIONS						N							P					P					P	P	N
CARVE AMALGAM RESTORATIONS						N							P					P					P	N	
FINISH AMALGAM RESTORATIONS						N							P					P					P	N	
POLISH AMALGAM RESTORATIONS	P	N	N		N/U	N	N/U	N	N	P	P	P/N	N			N	N	P	P	N	N	N	N/U	N	
PLACE & FINISH - COMPOSITE RESIN SILICATE RESTORE						N							P					P							

KEY: P = PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF DENTIST IS REQUIRED  
 N = PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF DENTIST IS NOT REQUIRED  
 U = PHYSICAL PRESENCE NOT REQUIRED. NO PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY DENTIST REQUIRED BUT THERE MAY BE REQUIREMENT FOR TYPE OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH A DENTIST(S). SOME STATES REQUIRE EXPERIENCE OR SPECIAL EDUCATION BY ROH  
 I = WHERE TWO LETTERS ARE PRESENT IN A BOX THE FIRST INDICATES THE SUPERVISION LEVEL IN THE PRIVATE DENTAL OFFICE. THE SECOND INDICATES THE SUPERVISION LEVEL IN OTHER SETTINGS SUCH AS INDEPENDENT DENTAL PRACTICE, LONG-TERM FACILITIES, HOSPITALS, ETC. ON NON-AMBULATORY PATIENTS

## ADHA PRACTICE ACT OVERVIEW CHART OF PERMITTED FUNCTIONS AND SUPERVISION LEVELS BY STATE

	MO	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	
PROPHYLAXIS	N/U	N	N/U	N/U	N	P/N	N/U	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	P/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N/U	P	N/U	N	
X-RAYS	N	N	N	N/U	N	P/N	N/U	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	P/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N
LOCAL ANESTHESIA	P	P	P	P/U	P*		P	P			P	P	N		P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
TOPICAL ANESTHESIA	N	N	N	N/U	N	P/N	N	N	P	N	N	N	N/U	P/N	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N
FLUORIDE	N/U	N	N/U	N/U	N	P/N	N/U	N	P/N	N	N	N	N/U	P/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N/U	P	N	N
PIT/FISSURE SEALANTS	N/U	N	N/U	N/U	N	P	N	N	P/N	N	P	N	N/U	P/N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N/U	P	N	P
ROOT PLANING	N	N	N	P/U	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	N	N/U	P/N	N	P/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N/U	P	N	N
SOFT TISSUE CURETTAGE	N	N	N	N			N			N	P	N	N/U				N	N		N			P/U				
ADMINISTER N <sub>2</sub> O	P			P/U	P			P			P	P	P				P	P		P		P	P			P	
STUDY CAST IMPRESSIONS	N	N	N	N/U	N	P	N	P	P	P	N	N	N/U	P	P	P		P	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N
PLACE PERIO DRESSINGS	N	N	N	N/U		P		P		P	P	N	N/U		P				N	N	N	N	N	P	P	N	P
REMOVE PERIO DRESSING	P	N	N	N/U	N	P	N	P	P	P	N	N	N/U		P	P	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	N	P
PLACE SUTURES									P											N							
REMOVE SUTURES	N	N	N	N/U	N	P		P	P	P	P	N	N/U	P	P	P		P	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	N	N
APPLY CAVITY - LINERS & BASES	P				N				P									P						P			
PLACE TEMPORARY RESTORATIONS	P	N	N	N/U	N	P		P	P	P		N	N/U			P/N		P	N					P	N	N	
REMOVE TEMPORARY RESTORATIONS	P	N	N		N			P	P	P								P	N								
PLACE AMALGAM RESTORATIONS	N				N								P					P					P			P	
CARVE AMALGAM RESTORATIONS	P												P										P	P		P	
FINISH AMALGAM RESTORATIONS	P												P										P			N	
POLISH AMALGAM RESTORATION	N	N	N	N/U	N	P	N		P	P	P	N	N/U		P	P	N	P	N	N			U	P		N	
PLACE & FINISH -- COMPOSITE RESIN SILICATE RESTORE	P												P										P			P	

KEY: P = PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF DENTIST IS REQUIRED

N = PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF DENTIST IS NOT REQUIRED

U = PHYSICAL PRESENCE NOT REQUIRED. NO PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY DENTIST REQUIRED BUT THERE MAY BE REQUIREMENT FOR TYPE OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH A DENTIST(S). SOME STATES REQUIRE EXPERIENCE OR SPECIAL EDUCATION BY RDH.

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\* = RULES PENDING



## Alaska Dental Society, Inc.

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(907) 563-3003 • FAX: 563-3009  
akdental@alaska.net

### HB319 Key Points

- Restorative function allows dental assistants and dental hygienists to place fillings after dentists have prepared teeth
- Increased efficiency will allow intenerate teams to deliver more care
- Same educational standards and testing for the restorative function for assistants and for hygienists
- Medicaid reimburses 48.00 for a children's prophylaxis, average hourly salary for a hygienist is 54.00, for an assistant 23.00. Dental offices that see children under Medicaid/Denali Kid Care for cleanings do so at a loss. Authorizing certified dental assistants to perform these cleanings would provide an economic incentive for dental offices.
- The Medicaid/Denali Kid Care children who would benefit from this change in the age range most likely to develop decay patterns and are the most at risk group.
- Most hygienists are fully booked, there is not enough capacity in the system for all of the eligible, but unseen, Medicaid/Denali Kid Care patients
- Expanded duty for hygienists under HB319 will leave a void as they move into more advanced functions. Children's cleanings are the most basic of cleanings and can be done safely by trained assistants.
- Both expanded duty functions for dental assistants would be done under direct supervision meaning a dentist would examine the patient before treatment and evaluate the treatment afterwards.
- Both functions for dental assistants would require certification. This would require additional education, training and testing.
- Nationwide there is a shortage of dentists in rural areas. This problem is especially acute in Alaska. Recognizing this the ADS is advocating expanded functions for all auxiliaries. Increasing the functions a hygienist can perform and the settings they can deliver care in will leave a void. Training assistants in more advanced functions – the least technically demanding that hygienists currently perform – is the best way to fill this void.
- Hygienists will be able to provide local anesthesia for patients without a dentist being present in the office allowing hygienists to work more efficiently and provide greater patient comfort.
- Hygienists will be able to work remotely from dentists allowing hygiene services to be provided in areas that are not currently being served.



## Alaska Dental Society, Inc.

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Anchorage, Alaska 99502-5390  
(907) 563-3003 • FAX: 563-3009  
akrdental@alaska.net

### Two Dental Bills Now One

HB136 was piggybacked onto HB319 in the Senate HESS committee resulting in one combined bill affecting dental auxiliaries. A recap of what the two previously separate bills changed for duties allowed by auxiliaries.

Sections 1-5 of the Senate CS for HB319 cover what was previously HB136. These sections pertain to Dental Hygienists.

1. Would allow dental hygienists to place fillings into teeth prepared by a dentist
2. Would allow hygienists to administer local anesthetic without a dentist present (currently a dentist must be in the building)
3. Would allow dental hygienists to work independently of dentists under a collaborative agreement.

Section 6 of the Senate CS for HB319 covers what was previously the wording for HB319 as it left the House. This section pertains to Dental Assistants.

1. Would allow dental assistants to place fillings into teeth prepared by a dentist ( same education and testing standards as for hygienists in HB136)
2. Would allow dental assistants to perform coronal polishing (cleaning teeth with a rubber cup) as a cleaning service (currently can only do so before applying sealants or fluoride)



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# Layperson's Guide to Dental Offices

Dental offices generally have 4 job classifications as employees with different levels of education and training. Three of the classifications involve working on patients, the remaining classification, front office staff, is limited to clerical tasks and will not be covered.

**Dentists:** 4 years of dental school and generally 4 years of college. Specialists have 2-4 years of additional school beyond dental school. Dentists supervise other dental care providers and are authorized to perform all dental procedures.

**Dental Hygienists:** 2 years of dental hygiene school and generally have 2 years of college. Hygienists work with dentists but generally do not work on patients at the same time with dentists. Hygienists may work on patients without a dentist present if the dentist has seen the patient beforehand. Hygienists are allowed to:

1. Clean teeth including deep cleaning
2. Apply sealants and fluoride
3. Apply therapeutic agents for gum disease
4. Administer anesthetic, if they have passed a test and if a dentist present on the premises
5. Perform any function a dental assistant can perform

HB319 would allow hygienists to:

1. Administer anesthetic without a dentist present
2. Work on patients independently of a dentist
3. Place fillings into cavities prepared by a dentist (restorative function) after training and passing a test

**Dental Assistants:** May attend formal education of 12-18 months or may be trained in dental offices. No educational prerequisites. Dental assistants work directly with dentists and are not allowed to see patients without a dentist present. Assistants are allowed to:

1. Apply sealants and fluoride
2. Clean teeth before applying sealants or fluoride but can not be considered a cleaning
3. Place rubber dams
4. Take impressions (molds)
5. Make temporary crowns
6. Place and remove orthodontic brackets

HB319 would allow assistants to:

1. Place fillings into cavities prepared by a dentist (restorative function) after training and passing a test. (same test and training as hygienists)
2. Clean teeth without tarter. Assistants can currently clean teeth before applying sealants or fluoride but it is not considered a "cleaning".

EXPANDED FUNCTIONS FOR DENTAL ASSISTANTS

STATE	RESTORATIVE FUNCTION	CORONAL POLISHING
ARIZONA		COURSE AND EXAM
ARKANSAS		COURSE AND EXAM
CALIFORNIA	COURSE AND EXAM	COURSE AND EXAM, OR MAY BE TRAINED BY DENTIST
COLORADO		NO EXAM REQUIRED
FLORIDA		COURSE AND EXAM
GEORGIA		NO EXAM REQUIRED
IDAHO		BOARD CERTIFICATION
ILLINOIS		COURSE AND EXAM
KANSAS		NO EXAM REQUIRED
MAINE	BOARD CERTIFICATION	NO EXAM REQUIRED
MASSACHUSETTS		COURSE AND EXAM
MICHIGAN		COURSE AND EXAM
MINNESOTA		COURSE AND EXAM
MISSOURI	COURSE AND EXAM	COURSE AND EXAM
MONTANA	COURSE AND EXAM	COURSE AND EXAM
NEBRASKA		COURSE AND EXAM
NEVADA		NO EXAM REQUIRED
NEW JERSEY		COURSE AND EXAM
NEW MEXICO		COURSE AND EXAM
NEW YORK	COURSE AND EXAM	COURSE AND EXAM
NORTH CAROLINA		COURSE AND EXAM
NORTH DAKOTA		COURSE AND EXAM
OHIO	BOARD CERTIFICATION	BOARD CERTIFICATION
OKLAHOMA		COURSE AND EXAM
OREGON		COURSE AND EXAM
PENNSYLVANIA	COURSE AND EXAM	COURSE AND EXAM
RHODE ISLAND		COURSE AND EXAM
SOUTH CAROLINA		COURSE AND EXAM
SOUTH DAKOTA		COURSE AND EXAM
TENNESSEE	BOARD CERTIFICATION	COURSE AND EXAM
UTAH		NO EXAM REQUIRED
VERMONT	BOARD CERTIFICATION	BOARD CERTIFICATION
WASHINGTON	BOARD CERTIFICATION	NO EXAM REQUIRED
WEST VIRGINIA		COURSE AND EXAM
WISCONSIN		NO EXAM REQUIRED
WYOMING		NO EXAM REQUIRED



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April 2, 2008

Members of the Senate HESS committee:

The Alaska Dental Society supports the changes made to HB319 as presented in work draft 25-LS1281/T, which combines HB319 and HB136. We urge the committee to pass HB319 out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Logan", is written over a faint, larger signature.

David Logan, DDS  
Legislative Chair, Alaska Dental Society



DAVID L. EICHLER, D.M.D.

3375 Badger Road, Suite 1  
North Pole, AK 99705  
Telephone: (907) 488-0978

January 16, 2008

To whom it may concern:

At the December 7, 2007 meeting of the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners, we considered the proposed change to the Dental Practice Act enabling a broader scope of practice for dental assistants as presented by the Alaska Dental Society, introduced as HB 319. After discussion by the Board we voted unanimously to support the proposal as beneficial to the citizens of the State by improving access to care while still maintaining the oversight to ensure safety and quality of care. We look forward to providing for these proposed changes and introducing this innovative way to help our profession deliver care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely

David L. Eichler DMD  
President, Alaska Board of Dental Examiners



Alaska Native  
Tribal Health Consortium

Administration 4006 Ambassador Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99508 Phone (907) 729-1900 Fax (907) 729-1901 [www.anthc.org](http://www.anthc.org)

February 5, 2008

Representative Jay Ramrus  
Alaska State House  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Ramrus:

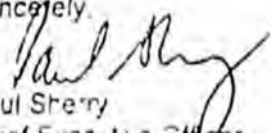
According to the U.S. Surgeon General, periodontal disease in American Indian and Alaska Native adults is 2.5 times greater than in the general U.S. population. Data from Alaska shows that 92 percent of Alaska Native adolescents have signs of early periodontal disease. In the last decade, research has demonstrated the association of periodontal disease in pregnant women with premature birth and studies are underway now to test interventions. Infant mortality is a problem in Alaska and oral health problems can only contribute to this unnecessary loss.

Virtually without exception, the studies of dental therapists in other countries and even expanded duty personnel in the U.S. show that these highly competent technicians perform fillings at the same level as their dentist supervisors. A study in Michigan showed that expanded duty personnel had one-third as many failures of dental sealants over 10 years as dentists with an overall retention rate similar to published studies. A study in Canada showed that 79 percent of pit and fissure sealants applied by dental therapists were retained for at least three years and 46 percent less caries in these teeth. Similarly studies in the U.S. showed good agreement between trained dental extenders and dentists in dental caries screening.

In the United States, dentistry is an aging profession. Of the nation's roughly 162,000 practicing dentists, 22.5 percent were ages 55-64, and 10 percent were age 65 and older in 2005. A large portion of this group is expected to retire over the next five to ten years, leaving an even greater need for other dental disciplines to be fully trained and ready to move into the workforce. The national shortage of dentists means even greater hardships for the Alaska Native people living in rural Alaska.

Given the high number of oral health disparities faced by our people, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium supports the expanded function practices of Dental Hygienists and Dental Health Aide Therapists across Alaska and the United States.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Sherry  
Chief Executive Officer

# Alaska Dental Outreach Consortium

Dentists reaching out to those in need

Dr. Mahale Boethe  
Chugiak  
President

Dr. Pete Higgins  
Fairbanks  
Vice President

James R. Towle  
Anchorage  
Secretary

Dr. Dave Eichler  
North Pole  
Treasurer

Dr. Dave Logar  
Juneau  
Director

The Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair; &  
Honorable Members  
House Committee for Health Education & Social Services  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99901

1 February 2008

Chairman Wilson & Honorable Members:

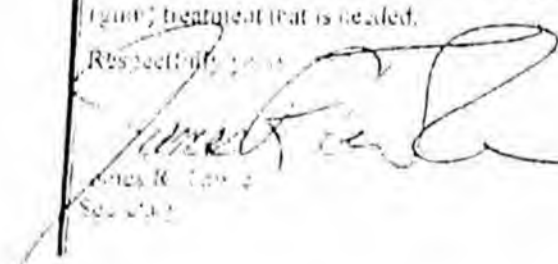
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Dental Outreach Corporation (ADOC), I urge you to support the passage of House Bill 319 & Senate Bill -239 concerning the expansion of duties for certified dental assistants.

These bills would allow greater access to care in rural areas and increase the ability of dentists to deliver care under the Medicaid and Denali Kid Care system.

ADOC is a non profit organization started by the Alaska Dental Society in 2007. It has requested IRS designation as a tax-exempt entity, and is currently awaiting a ruling prior to commencing operations. ADOC has been established to provide care in underserved rural areas of Alaska using volunteer dentists.

The adoption of HB-319/SB-239 will ensure that ADOC's volunteer dentists are able to use the expanded duty for dental assistants to significantly increase the amount of care they are able to provide compared to than would be possible under the exist statutes. Certified dental assistants placing fillings after the dentists have prepared teeth will allow our dental teams to work efficiently. One dentist working in concert with several assistants will be able to provide care to 50-75% more patients than a dentist who is not allowed to delegate the "restorative services" authorized by these bills.

Allowing certified dental assistants to perform coronal polishing is also crucial to the efficient delivery of care. Unless ADOC is able to recruit hygienists willing to accompany our volunteer dentists and provide their services without compensation or remuneration, it will be cost prohibitive for ADOC to provide basic dental hygiene services. This will severely hinder ADOC's ability to provide this most basic of preventive services. Our dentists, due to the more pressing need to restore decayed teeth, will be unable to provide little more than a minimal number of the cleanings needed in the communities we will serve. However, with the adoption of these bills, dental assistants can provide coronal polishing, under the supervision of a dentist, who after removing any calculus (tartar) and treating any sub-gingival (below the gum line) treatment deemed appropriate, can focus on providing restorative and periodontal (gum) treatment that is needed.

Respectfully,  
  
James R. Towle  
Secretary



**Alaska Dental Society, Inc.**

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akdental@alaska.net

The Honorable Jay Ramras  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Bldg. Rm 118  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Ramras,

The Alaska Dental Society welcomes you back, for what we hope will be a productive and rewarding 2008 session of the Alaska Legislature.

This session the Alaska Dental Society (ADS) is backing legislation sponsored by Sen. Joe Thomas and Rep. Jay Ramras. These bills are one of several steps the is undertaking to increase access to dental care to rural and other Alaskans in need. A packet enclosed provides information on the Expanded Duty for Dental Assistants Bills, HB-319 and SB-239, as well as other components of a strategic plan for dealing with the shortage of dental care in Alaska.

Given the short 90 day session in 2008 we hope you will give HB-319 and SB-239 your support and urge you fellow lawmakers to take prompt attention before preparation of the FY2009 budget takes center stage.

Enclosed are complementary toothbrushes, floss for you and your staff.

Respectfully yours,

David Logan, DDS, Chairman  
Legislative Committee



## Alaska Dental Society, Inc.

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### Long Term Strategic Plan for Providing Care for the Underserved in Alaska

The majority of Alaskans enjoy access to excellent and affordable dental care – some of the best in the world. A segment of the Alaska's population does not have ready access to basic dental care and struggles to pay for the treatment they need; particularly if they have delayed seeking care and their condition has gotten worse and more difficult and costly to treat.

The Alaska Dental Society has developed a long term strategic plan which will increase access to care for those Alaskans most in need and with the greatest challenges to getting regular care and treatment. It will require cooperation between the Alaska Dental and the Alaska Dental Board, the Legislature, as well as the other state and federal agencies responsible for dental and health care.

The Alaska Dental Society recommends the following steps to increase access to dental care:

1. Legislation to expand the duties that can be assigned to auxiliary dental personnel. Increasing the tasks performed by hygienists and assistants will increase efficiency while lowering costs.
2. Implement a 10% tax at the wholesale level on soda pop, soft drinks that contain significant percentages of sugar and candy products. Proceeds of the tax would be directed to the general fund and used to offset key programs to improve and increase access to dental care.
3. Implementation of a state grant program for delivery of preventive care in underserved areas
4. Institute a loan program to encourage health care providers to deliver care in underserved areas
5. Modifications to the Medicaid system by the Department of Health and Social Services that will encourage rather than discourage dentists to participate
6. Incentives from the state to encourage communities to fluoridate community water systems and development of a state program to provide fluoride supplementation in communities without fluoridated water

More detailed information on the above listed programs can be found in the accompanying material.

---

**From:** housemajority\_email@housemajority.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 6:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 319

From: swightsdyahoo.com

Dear Representative Ramras

I am writing to you as a dental hygienist who loves her job and loves her patients. I worked hard for my degree and am proud of the level of training I received. I am very concerned about HB 319.

Dental Hygienists are highly trained and highly educated professionals. Your Bill states that only tarter free children would be polished by assistants, why would you want someone with less hands on training and less education working on our most precious resource? We should expect the same high level care for children that we do for adults and that is with a hygienist.

Recently Dental Health Aides were allowed to practice in our rural areas and a new Dental Hygiene program was opened in Fairbanks. As more students graduate more professionals will be available to treat the needs of Rural Alaska. They will be professionals with at least 2 years of intense clinical training, which is what our states deserves.

Thank you,  
Sarah Sullivan

- Sarah Sullivan  
Zip Code: 99709

-----  
DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL if you want to correspond with this author.  
If suspected Spam please forward to: [support@housemajority.org](mailto:support@housemajority.org)  
-----

Support HB319

From: Rep. Jay Ramras  
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2008 5:03 PM  
To: Patty Krueger  
Subject: FW: Allied Health Funding for UAF

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Pendergrast [mailto:soviev@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 11:19 PM  
To: Rep. Jay Ramras  
Subject: Allied Health Funding for UAF

Dear Jay,

Thank you for your good work and fine effort. Your support of the HB319 is appreciated.

My wife and I heard of the budget cut for the Allied Health program at UAF and wanted to give you our opinion on this action.

The new Dental Hygiene program is one that can help satisfy the demand of access to care. We need more trained professionals to meet the demands of our communities. In addition to being a sound idea for the care recipients it provides an opportunity for individuals in the small towns and villages to receive a degree and provide much needed care to their people.

The time to meet these demands is now. Any delays will only set back the already needed care.

Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated and valued.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Pendergrast DMD  
Charles W. Lemke

---

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February 25, 2008

Senate Finance Committee  
Labor and Commerce Committee

Representative Jay Ramras  
State Capitol Rm 118  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: 465-3004  
Fax: 465-2070

Re: **HOUSE BILL NO. 319**

Dear Jay Ramras:

My name is Mayquella Buckley, I have been a dental assistant for 11 years, a Certified Dental Assistant through DANB for 5 years and I am certified in dental radiology through the Indian Health Services.

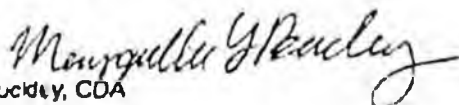
DANB, the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. is the national certification and credentialing agency for dental assistants and is recognized by the American Dental Association. To meet testing criteria you need to graduate from an accredited dental assistant program at a university or have 2 years of minimum work experience in the dental field. To provide quality dental care in more advanced procedures a dental assistant needs to have a strong foundation of dental knowledge in infection control, radiology and general chair side skills. They also need to have clinical experience to allow time to grow their skills.

House Bill 319 gives dental assistants and our patient population we provide dental care to great opportunities. However, regulating advance procedures like restorative functions and coronal polishing will require more than completing a program of instruction approved by the board. Formal training and at least 2 years of general clinical experience is needed to acquire the basic skill set in order to provide quality dental care. With that knowledge then one may be ready to expand their skills, knowledge and abilities to more advance dental procedures. Providing safe and quality dental care is a priority and can be achieved through training and experience.

I have been the clinical manager/supervisor for ANMC dental services for 5 years and supervise 30 + dental assistant at any one time. I also oversee the dental assistant training program for which most of our dental assistants are hired from. We have set up our own job progressions to meet the clinical education and work experience listed above. This process has lead to improved dental services being provided and removes those individuals who may not be as serious in providing quality dental care.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter and I hope that you will consider my recommendations in your decisions.

Sincerely,



Mayquella Buckley, CDA

SCF Dental  
Clinical Operations Manager  
907-729-8860  
[mbuckley@scf.ak](mailto:mbuckley@scf.ak)