
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 602 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, YUDICHAK, BEYER, BRENNAN, BROOKS,
CREIGHTON, DALEY, FABRIZIO, FLECK, GIBBONS, GINGRICH,
JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MUNDY, PETRI,
READSHAW, SEIP, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, STERN, MARKOSEK, SANTONI
AND GOODMAN, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, FEBRUARY 24,
2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76), entitled "An
2 act relating to dentistry; defining and providing for the
3 licensing and registration of dentists and dental hygienists,
4 and for the revocation and suspension of such licenses and
5 registrations, subject to appeal, and for their
6 reinstatement; defining the powers and duties of the State
7 Dental Council and Examining Board and the Department of
8 Public Instruction; providing penalties; and repealing
9 existing laws," further defining "expanded function dental
10 assistant"; further providing for the State Board of
11 Dentistry; and providing for scope of practice of expanded
12 function dental assistant.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The definition of "expanded function dental
16 assistant" in section 2 of the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.
17 76), known as The Dental Law, added December 27, 1994 (P.L.1361,
18 No.160), is amended to read:

19 Section 2. Definitions.--* * *

20 "Expanded Function Dental Assistant" means an individual who
21 holds a current valid certification under this act to perform

1 reversible intraoral procedures authorized by this act under the
2 direct supervision of a licensed dentist and under an assignment
3 of duties by a dentist, as defined in section 11.8. [Such
4 procedures include, but are not limited to, placing and removing
5 rubber dams and matrices, placing and contouring amalgam and
6 other restorative materials and other reversible procedures not
7 designated by this act to be performed only by licensed dentists
8 or dental hygienists. Expanded function dental assistants shall
9 not perform the following procedures:

10 (a) Complete or limited examination, diagnosis and treatment
11 planning.

12 (b) Surgical or cutting procedures of hard or soft tissue.

13 (c) Prescribing drugs, medicaments or work authorizations.

14 (d) Taking impressions other than for study models or
15 diagnostic casts.

16 (e) Final inspection and approval of restorative and other
17 treatment which affects occlusion and any necessary occlusal
18 adjustments.

19 (f) Performing pulp capping, pulpotomy and other endodontic
20 procedures.

21 (g) Placement and intraoral adjustments of fixed and
22 removable prosthetic appliances.

23 (h) Administration of local anesthesia, parenteral or
24 inhalational sedation or general anesthesia.

25 Expanded function dental assistants shall perform under the
26 direct supervision of a dentist. Direct supervision means that a
27 dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility,
28 personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally
29 authorizes the procedure and remains in the dental office or
30 treatment facility while the procedure is being performed by the

1 expanded function dental assistant and, before dismissal of the
2 patient, evaluates the work performed by the expanded function
3 dental assistant.] In addition, an expanded function dental
4 assistant may perform those procedures specified in section
5 11.10 and other reversible procedures not designated by this act
6 to be performed by licensed dentists or dental hygienists. For
7 purposes of this definition, "direct supervision" shall mean
8 that a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility,
9 personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally
10 authorizes the procedure and remains in the dental office or
11 treatment facility while the procedure is being performed and,
12 before dismissal of the patient, personally evaluates the work
13 performed.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. Section 2.1(a) of the act, added December 20,
16 1985 (P.L.513, No.118), is amended to read:

17 Section 2.1. State Board of Dentistry.--(a) The State Board
18 of Dentistry shall consist of the Secretary of Health, or his
19 designee, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection in
20 the Office of the Attorney General, or his designee, the
21 Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs and [ten]
22 twelve additional members, who shall be appointed by the
23 Governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the
24 members elected to the Senate. Two members shall represent the
25 public at large. [Seven] Eight members shall have been licensed
26 and engaged in the actual practice of dentistry in this
27 Commonwealth during a period of not less than ten years
28 immediately preceding their appointment. One member shall be a
29 dental hygienist licensed to practice dental hygiene in this
30 Commonwealth and shall have been engaged in the practice of

1 dental hygiene for a period of at least three years immediately
2 preceding appointment. One member shall be an expanded function
3 dental assistant.

4 * * *

5 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

6 Section 11.10. Scope of Practice for Expanded Function

7 Dental Assistant.--(a) An expanded function dental assistant
8 may perform the following procedures:

9 (1) Placing and contouring amalgam and other restorative
10 materials.

11 (2) Perform coronal polishing.

12 (3) Perform fluoride treatments, including fluoride varnish.

13 (4) Take impressions of teeth for athletic appliances.

14 (b) An expanded function dental assistant may not perform
15 the following procedures:

16 (1) Complete or limited examination, diagnosis and treatment
17 planning.

18 (2) Surgical or cutting procedures of hard or soft tissue.

19 (3) Prescribing drugs, medicaments or work authorizations.

20 (4) Taking impressions other than for study models,
21 diagnostic casts or athletic appliances.

22 (5) Final inspection and approval of restorative and other
23 treatment which affects occlusion and any necessary occlusal
24 adjustments.

25 (6) Pulp capping, pulpotomy and other endodontic procedures.

26 (7) Placement and intraoral adjustments of fixed and
27 removable prosthetic appliances.

28 (8) Administration of local anesthesia, parenteral or
29 inhalational sedation or general anesthesia.

30 Section 4. The State Board of Dentistry shall promulgate

1 regulations to implement this act within 18 months of the
2 effective date of this section.

3 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.