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By: **Delegate Donoghue**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2003

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dentists and Dental Hygienists - Licensure - Examination Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the examination requirements for licensure as a dentist  
4 or dental hygienist for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in another state;  
5 requiring a dentist or dental hygienist licensed in another state who applies for  
6 a general license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in this State to provide  
7 adequate evidence that the dentist or dental hygienist holds a license to practice  
8 dentistry or dental hygiene in another state after passing an exam other than a  
9 regional board that is similar to the exam for which the applicant is seeking  
10 waiver; defining certain terms; and generally relating to examination  
11 requirements for the licensure of dentists and dental hygienists.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Health Occupations  
14 Section 4-306  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Health Occupations**

20 4-306.

21 (a) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
22 INDICATED.

23 (2) "NERB" MEANS THE NORTH EAST REGIONAL BOARD OF DENTAL  
24 EXAMINERS, INC.

25 (3) "PASSED A REGIONAL BOARD" MEANS AN APPLICANT EARNED A  
26 SCORE OF 75% IN EACH DISCIPLINE, CLINICAL SKILL, PROCEDURE, OR KNOWLEDGE  
27 AREA THAT IS TESTED ON THE NERB EXAMINATION USING THE INTERNAL

1 WEIGHTING AND SCORING METHODS THE NERB USES TO SCORE THE NERB'S  
2 EXAMINATION OF DENTISTRY OR DENTAL HYGIENE, RESPECTIVELY.

3 (4) "REGIONAL BOARD" MEANS AN EXAMINATION OFFERED BY ANY OF  
4 THE FOLLOWING DENTAL EXAMINATION ORGANIZATIONS:

5 (I) THE CENTRAL REGIONAL DENTAL TESTING SERVICE CREDITS;

6 (II) THE NORTH EAST REGIONAL BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS,  
7 INC.;

8 (III) THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL TESTING AGENCY, INC.; AND

9 (IV) THE WESTERN REGIONAL EXAMINING BOARD, INC.

10 (B) (1) (I) A dentist licensed in any other state who[, for 5 preceding  
11 years, has been actively engaged in practicing dentistry] HAS PASSED A REGIONAL  
12 BOARD shall be granted a license in this State [after passing] IF THE APPLICANT  
13 PASSES THE FOLLOWING [an examination] EXAMINATIONS given BY OR  
14 DESIGNATED by the Board:

15 1. A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION ON APPLIED CLINICAL  
16 DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PLANNING; AND

17 2. A LAW EXAMINATION.

18 (II) A DENTIST LICENSED IN ANY OTHER STATE WHO HAS NOT  
19 PASSED A REGIONAL BOARD SHALL BE GRANTED A LICENSE IN THIS STATE IF:

20 1. FOR THE 5 PRECEDING YEARS THE DENTIST HAS BEEN  
21 ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PRACTICING DENTISTRY; AND

22 2. THE APPLICANT PASSES THE FOLLOWING EXAMINATIONS  
23 GIVEN BY OR DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD:

24 A. A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION ON APPLIED CLINICAL  
25 DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PLANNING; AND

26 B. A LAW EXAMINATION.

27 (2) (I) A dental hygienist licensed in any other state who[, for 3  
28 preceding years, has been actively engaged in practicing dental hygiene] HAS PASSED  
29 A REGIONAL BOARD shall be granted a license in this State [after passing] IF THE  
30 APPLICANT PASSES an examination given by the Board.

31 (II) A DENTAL HYGIENIST LICENSED IN ANY OTHER STATE WHO  
32 HAS NOT PASSED A REGIONAL BOARD SHALL BE GRANTED A LICENSE IN THIS STATE  
33 IF:

34 1. FOR THE 3 PRECEDING YEARS THE DENTAL HYGIENIST  
35 HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PRACTICING DENTAL HYGIENE; AND



1 THAN A REGIONAL BOARD that is similar to the examination for which the applicant  
2 is seeking waiver;

3 (iii) Is not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another  
4 state, does not have charges pending against the applicant's license, and has not been  
5 disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or  
6 been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act that would  
7 be grounds for disciplinary action under § 4-315 of this subtitle; and

8 (iv) Has not previously failed an examination for licensure as a  
9 dental hygienist in this State.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2003.