

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 583 (Delegate Owings. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Oral Health - Dental Hygienists - Access to Care**

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This bill repeals the current law requirement that a dentist be on the premises of specified facilities before a dental hygienist may practice dental hygiene. Instead, a dental hygienist is authorized to practice dental hygiene under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in a dental office on a patient who has been examined by the dentist of record or at other specified locations. In addition, the bill eliminates the requirement of a waiver from the State Board of Dental Examiners before a dental hygienist may treat patients without a dentist being on the premises. A dentist must maintain a record of and provide to the dental hygienist an agreement allowing the dental hygienist to perform oral health services within the scope of practice of a dental hygienist without the presence of the dentist.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal effect on small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** The State Board of Dental Examiners currently has 33 waivers in effect for various institutions and public health programs. Waivers are generally approved in 30 days and do not require an application fee. The bill may decrease the board's workload slightly. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** To the extent that some small businesses (including dental offices) would no longer require a dentist on site in order for a dental hygienist to practice, costs for

small businesses may decrease.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (State Board of Dental Examiners, Community and Public Health Administration), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 1998  
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