

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 275 (Senator Pinsky. *et al.*)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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

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This bill provides that a licensed dental hygienist may perform oral health services under the supervision of a licensed dentist who may or may not be on the premises at the time services are performed (“general supervision”) if the dental hygienist practices in: (1) a dental facility owned and operated by the federal, the State, or a local government; or (2) a public health department of the State or a county. Current law permits a licensed dental hygienist to practice without the supervising dentist being at the dental facility only if the facility has a waiver from the State Board of Dental Examiners. The bill exempts dental facilities owned and operated by the federal, the State, or a local government from the waiver requirement. In addition, the bill provides for the conditions under which a facility may operate under general supervision. The bill specifies that dental hygienists may not perform oral health services independently of a supervising dentist.

A facility must notify the board that it operates under general supervision, provide the identity of each supervising dentist and dental hygienist, and update the information within 30 days of any change. The board must report the above information, excepting the identity of dental hygienists, to the General Assembly by December 31, 1999 and each year thereafter.

The bill takes effect October 1, 1998 and sunsets September 30, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** Currently, the board issues waivers of supervision for dental hygienists in public health settings, including federal, State, and local institutions, schools, and nursing homes. To date, the board has granted waivers to 58 facilities, of which 38 are active. Eligible facilities that request waivers must submit a written application and a medical emergency action plan. There is no application fee for a waiver. Because all the facilities affected by this bill would either have been eligible for or in possession of a waiver, this bill would have no effect on State finances.

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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  
nncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 3, 1998  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 29, 1998

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