

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 341

(Senator Frosh)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Health Occupations - Dentists and Dental Hygienists - Volunteer Licenses**

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This bill creates a volunteer dentist license and a volunteer dental hygienist license. To qualify for the volunteer licenses, an applicant must: (1) meet the board's requirements for the retired volunteer dentist or retired volunteer dental hygienist licenses; (2) hold an active license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in another state or the District of Columbia; (3) complete continuing education requirements for a general dentist license or general dental hygienist license; (4) provide dental or dental hygiene services; and (5) surrender the volunteer license immediately upon ceasing to provide services.

The bill is effective only if SB 414/HB 334 of 2003 are enacted.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not materially affect State finances or operations because applicants are not required to pay application fees.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** To qualify for a license to practice dentistry, an applicant must hold a Degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, Doctor of Dental Medicine, or the equivalent, from a college or university that is authorized by any state or Canadian province and recognized by the Board of Dental Examiners for adequate preprofessional collegiate

training and for maintaining an acceptable course of dental instruction. The applicant also must be of good moral character and at least 18 years old.

A person applying for a retired volunteer dentist license must have had a general license to practice dentistry issued within the last two years and complete the board-established continuing education requirements for a general license.

To qualify for a license to practice dental hygiene, the applicant must be a graduate of a school for dental hygienists that requires at least two years of education in an institution of higher education and is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. The applicant also must be of good moral character and at least 18 years old.

A person applying for a retired dental hygienist's license must have had a general license to practice dental hygiene within the last two years and complete board-established continuing education requirements for a general license.

Retired volunteer dentist and dental hygienist license applicants are not required to pay any application or license fees.

**Background:** Currently, there are not any retired volunteer dentist licensees or retired volunteer dental hygienist licensees in Maryland. SB 414/HB 334 of 2003, amend the State Board of Dental Examiners licensure requirements for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in other states.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2003  
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