

SENATE BILL 568

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71r2399
CF 71r1178

By: **Senator Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Supervised Practice – Dental Hygienist**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the requirements for certain dental facilities that employ
4 certain dental hygienists who are authorized to practice dental hygiene under
5 certain supervision; and generally relating to dental hygienists and general
6 supervision practice requirements.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health Occupations
9 Section 4–308(h)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health Occupations**

15 4–308.

16 (h) (1) In this subsection, “general supervision” means supervision of a
17 dental hygienist by a dentist, where the dentist may or may not be present when the
18 dental hygienist performs the dental hygiene procedures.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) While it is effective, a general license to practice dental hygiene
2 issued under this title authorizes the licensee to practice dental hygiene under the
3 general supervision of a licensed dentist in:

4 (i) A dental facility owned and operated by the federal, the
5 State, or a local government; or

6 (ii) A public health department of the State or a county.

7 (3) A facility in which a dental hygienist is authorized to practice
8 under the general supervision of a licensed dentist shall ensure that:

9 (i) The supervising dentist in the facility:

10 1. Holds an active general license to practice dentistry in
11 the State;

12 2. Holds a current certificate evidencing health provider
13 level C proficiency, or its equivalent, in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

14 3. Has at least 2 years of active clinical practice in direct
15 patient care;

16 (ii) Each dental hygienist authorized to practice under the
17 general supervision of a licensed dentist:

18 1. Holds an active general license to practice dental
19 hygiene in the State;

20 2. Holds a current certificate evidencing health provider
21 level C proficiency, or its equivalent, in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

22 3. Has at least 2 years of active clinical practice in direct
23 patient care;

24 [(iii) Before the initial treatment of a patient by a dental
25 hygienist practicing under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, the
26 supervising dentist, the patient's dentist, or the treating physician evaluates the
27 patient's medical history and determines its impact on the patient's suitability to
28 receive oral health treatment;

29 (iv) The supervising dentist diagnoses the patient and approves
30 the treatment plan for the patient;

1 (v) The supervising dentist authorizes, on a patient by patient
2 basis, a dental hygienist to practice under the general supervision of a licensed
3 dentist;

4 (vi) A dental hygienist practicing under the general supervision
5 of a licensed dentist ascertains before treating a recall patient that there has been no
6 change in the patient's medical history;

7 (vii) A dental hygienist consults with the supervising dentist, the
8 patient's dentist, or a treating physician before proceeding with treatment if there is a
9 change in the patient's medical history;]

10 [(viii)] (III) The facility has a medical emergency plan; AND

11 [(ix) Adequate facilities and equipment are available for the
12 delivery of dental hygiene services other than fluoride rinse programs; and]

13 [(x)] (IV) A recall patient who has been examined by a dental
14 hygienist practicing under the general supervision of a licensed dentist will be
15 scheduled for an oral examination every 6 months, or as otherwise recommended by
16 the supervising dentist.

17 (4) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
18 PARAGRAPH, A FACILITY IN WHICH A DENTAL HYGIENIST IS AUTHORIZED TO
19 PRACTICE UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST SHALL
20 SATISFY THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

21 1. BEFORE THE INITIAL TREATMENT OF A PATIENT
22 BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST PRACTICING UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A
23 LICENSED DENTIST, THE SUPERVISING DENTIST, THE PATIENT'S DENTIST, OR
24 THE TREATING PHYSICIAN EVALUATES THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL HISTORY AND
25 DETERMINES ITS IMPACT ON THE PATIENT'S SUITABILITY TO RECEIVE ORAL
26 HEALTH TREATMENT;

27 2. THE SUPERVISING DENTIST DIAGNOSES THE
28 PATIENT AND APPROVES THE TREATMENT PLAN FOR THE PATIENT;

29 3. THE SUPERVISING DENTIST AUTHORIZES, ON A
30 PATIENT BY PATIENT BASIS, A DENTAL HYGIENIST TO PRACTICE UNDER THE
31 GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST;

1 **4. A DENTAL HYGIENIST PRACTICING UNDER THE**
2 **GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST ASCERTAINS BEFORE**
3 **TREATING A RECALL PATIENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE**
4 **PATIENT'S MEDICAL HISTORY;**

5 **5. A DENTAL HYGIENIST CONSULTS WITH THE**
6 **SUPERVISING DENTIST, THE PATIENT'S DENTIST, OR A TREATING PHYSICIAN**
7 **BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH TREATMENT IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE**
8 **PATIENT'S MEDICAL HISTORY; AND**

9 **6. ADEQUATE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ARE**
10 **AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF DENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES OTHER THAN**
11 **FLUORIDE RINSE PROGRAMS.**

12 **(II) A DENTAL HYGIENIST WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO**
13 **PRACTICE UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST MAY**
14 **APPLY FLUORIDE, MOUTH RINSE, OR VARNISH WITHOUT SATISFYING THE**
15 **REQUIREMENTS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

16 **[(4)] (5)** Before a facility operates under general supervision, the
17 facility shall report to the Board:

18 (i) That the facility is operating under general supervision; and
19 (ii) The identity of each supervising dentist and each dental
20 hygienist.

21 **[(5)] (6)** A facility operating under general supervision shall report to
22 the Board any changes in the status of the facility's general supervision, any
23 supervising dentist, or any dental hygienist within 30 days after the change.

24 **[(6)] (7)** This subsection may not be construed to:

25 (i) Authorize a dental hygienist to practice dental hygiene
26 independent of a supervising dentist; or

27 (ii) Prohibit a dentist from being available for personal
28 consultation or on the premises where a dental hygienist is practicing.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2007.