

# SENATE BILL 602

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By: **Senators Pinsky, Colburn, Conway, Dyson, Harrington, Lenett, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dental Hygienists – Expanded Functions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “practice dental hygiene”; authorizing the  
4 State Board of Dental Examiners to adopt certain regulations; altering the  
5 authority of the Board to adopt certain rules and regulations concerning the  
6 administration of certain anesthesia by certain dental hygienists; authorizing  
7 certain dental hygienists to administer certain anesthesia under certain  
8 circumstances; requiring certain dental hygienists to meet certain educational  
9 and examination requirements before performing certain functions; altering a  
10 certain calculation of the number of unsupervised clinical hours worked by  
11 supervised dental hygienists under certain circumstances; and generally  
12 relating to the practice of dental hygiene.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Health Occupations  
15 Section 4–101(k), 4–205(a)(1), 4–206, and 4–308(i)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Health Occupations  
20 Section 4–206.1  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Health Occupations**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4–101.

2 (k) “Practice dental hygiene” means to:

3 (1) Perform a preliminary dental examination;

4 (2) Perform a complete prophylaxis, including the removal of any  
5 deposit, accretion, or stain from the surface of a tooth or a restoration;

6 (3) Polish a tooth or a restoration;

7 (4) Chart cavities, restorations, missing teeth, periodontal conditions,  
8 and other features observed during preliminary examination, prophylaxis, or  
9 polishing;

10 (5) Apply a medicinal agent to a tooth for a prophylactic purpose;

11 (6) Take a dental X ray; [or]

12 (7) **PERFORM A MANUAL CURETTAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH**  
13 **SCALING AND ROOT PLANING;**

14 (8) **MONITOR A PATIENT TO WHOM NITROUS OXIDE IS**  
15 **ADMINISTERED;**

16 (9) **ADMINISTER LOCAL ANESTHESIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
17 **4–206.1 OF THIS TITLE; OR**

18 [(7)] (10) Perform any other intraoral function that the Board  
19 authorizes by a rule or regulation adopted under § 4–206 of this title.

20 4–205.

21 (a) In addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this title, the Board may:

22 (1) Adopt regulations governing:

23 (i) The administration of general anesthesia by a licensed  
24 dentist;

25 (ii) The administration of sedation by a licensed dentist;

26 (iii) The use of a dental assistant by a licensed dentist in  
27 performing intraoral procedures;

1 (iv) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the issuance of a  
2 permit to a facility not otherwise regulated where a dentist administers or has  
3 general anesthesia or sedation administered;

4 (v) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the issuance of a  
5 permit to a dentist who administers or has general anesthesia or sedation  
6 administered;

7 (vi) Reasonable requirements for the training and evaluation of  
8 a dentist before the dentist may administer general anesthesia or sedation other  
9 than nitrous oxide administered alone and not in conjunction with:

- 10 1. Another method of diminishing or eliminating pain; or  
11 2. Medication used for diminishing or eliminating  
12 anxiety;

13 **(VII) REASONABLE REQUIREMENTS FOR:**

14 **1. THE EDUCATION, TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND**  
15 **EXAMINATION OF A DENTAL HYGIENIST BEFORE THE DENTAL HYGIENIST**  
16 **MAY PERFORM MANUAL CURETTAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SCALING AND**  
17 **ROOT PLANING; AND**

18 **2. PERFORMANCE BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST OF**  
19 **MANUAL CURETTAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SCALING AND ROOT**  
20 **PLANING;**

21 **(VIII) REASONABLE REQUIREMENTS FOR:**

22 **1. THE EDUCATION, TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND**  
23 **EXAMINATION OF A DENTAL HYGIENIST BEFORE A DENTAL HYGIENIST**  
24 **MAY MONITOR A PATIENT BEING ADMINISTERED NITROUS OXIDE; AND**

25 **2. MONITORING BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST OF A**  
26 **PATIENT BEING ADMINISTERED NITROUS OXIDE;**

27 **(IX) REASONABLE REQUIREMENTS FOR:**

28 **1. THE EDUCATION, TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND**  
29 **EXAMINATION OF A DENTAL HYGIENIST BEFORE THE DENTAL HYGIENIST**  
30 **MAY ADMINISTER LOCAL ANESTHESIA UNDER § 4-206.1 OF THIS**  
31 **SUBTITLE; AND**

1                                   **2. ADMINISTERING BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST OF**  
 2                                   **LOCAL ANESTHESIA UNDER § 4-206.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

3                                   [[vii]] **(X)** The discipline of a holder of any facility or  
 4 administration permit for the administration of general anesthesia or sedation;  
 5 and

6                                   [[viii]] **(XI)** The release of patient dental records;

7 4-206.

8                                   (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Board may adopt rules  
 9 and regulations that authorize a licensed dental hygienist to perform additional  
 10 intraoral functions.

11                                  (b) The Board may not authorize a licensed dental hygienist to:

12                                   (1) Perform a diagnosis;

13                                   (2) Perform an extraction;

14                                   (3) Repair a cavity;

15                                   (4) Correct tooth placement;

16                                   (5) Perform a surgical procedure; or

17                                   (6) Administer anesthesia other than **THE FOLLOWING:**

18                                   (I) [topical] **TOPICAL** anesthesia; **OR**

19                                   (II) **LOCAL ANESTHESIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-206.1 OF**  
 20 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

21 **4-206.1.**

22                                  **(A) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF**  
 23 **THIS SECTION, A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY ADMINISTER LOCAL ANESTHESIA BY**  
 24 **INFILTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANESTHETIZING SOFT TISSUE TO**  
 25 **FACILITATE THE PERFORMANCE OF DENTAL HYGIENE PROCEDURES, BUT NOT**  
 26 **AS A MEDICAL SPECIALTY, PROVIDED THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL**  
 27 **ANESTHESIA IS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A DENTIST WHO:**

28                                   **(1) IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT ON THE PREMISES; AND**

1           **(2) PRESCRIBES THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHESIA**  
2 **BY THE DENTAL HYGIENIST.**

3           **(B) BEFORE A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY ADMINISTER LOCAL**  
4 **ANESTHESIA UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DENTAL HYGIENIST**  
5 **SHALL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

6           **(1) ANY EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE**  
7 **BOARD; AND**

8           **(2) A WRITTEN AND CLINICAL EXAMINATION AS REQUIRED BY**  
9 **THE BOARD.**

10           **(C) A DENTAL HYGIENIST SHALL OBTAIN THE EDUCATIONAL**  
11 **REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF**  
12 **THIS SECTION FROM AN ACCREDITED DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM.**

13 4-308.

14           (i) (1) In this subsection, “private dental office” means a dental office  
15 owned and operated by:

16                   (i) A licensed dentist; or

17                   (ii) A professional corporation, partnership, limited liability  
18 company, or limited liability partnership owned and controlled by a licensed dentist.

19           (2) While it is effective, a general license to practice dental hygiene  
20 issued under this title authorizes the licensee to practice dental hygiene under the  
21 general supervision of a licensed dentist in a private dental office.

22           (3) A private dental office in which a dental hygienist is authorized to  
23 practice under the general supervision of a licensed dentist shall ensure that:

24                   (i) The supervising dentist holds an active license to practice  
25 dentistry in this State;

26                   (ii) The dental hygienist holds an active license to practice  
27 dental hygiene in this State;

28                   (iii) The dental hygienist has at least 1,500 hours of dental  
29 hygiene clinical practice in direct patient care; and

30                   (iv) There is a written agreement between the supervising  
31 dentist and the dental hygienist practicing under general supervision that clearly sets  
32 forth the terms and conditions under which the dental hygienist may practice,

1 including a statement that the dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services  
2 without the supervising dentist on the premises.

3 (4) A dental hygienist may perform authorized dental hygiene services  
4 without the supervising dentist on the premises only if:

5 (i) After the supervising dentist examines and evaluates a  
6 patient, the prescribed and authorized treatment to be provided by the dental  
7 hygienist is written in the patient's records;

8 (ii) 1. Treatments authorized by a supervising dentist to be  
9 provided by the dental hygienist are rendered no later than 7 months from the date  
10 the patient was examined and evaluated by the supervising dentist; and

11 2. Upon expiration of a prescription or prescribed  
12 treatment, the supervising dentist examines and reevaluates the patient before  
13 writing a new prescription and authorization for treatment;

14 (iii) Prior to an appointment, the patient or the custodial parent  
15 or legal guardian of a minor or incompetent adult shall:

16 1. Be informed that a dental hygienist will be providing  
17 services previously prescribed by a dentist who will not be on the premises during the  
18 appointment; and

19 2. Consent to receiving the dental hygiene services;

20 (iv) Written emergency procedures are in place and the dental  
21 hygienist is trained to implement the emergency procedures;

22 (v) A designated licensed dentist is available for consultation  
23 with the dental hygienist; and

24 (vi) The number of unsupervised clinical hours worked by a  
25 supervised dental hygienist in any given [calendar week] **3-MONTH PERIOD** is less  
26 than 60 percent of the dental hygienist's total hours **WORKED DURING THAT**  
27 **3-MONTH PERIOD.**

28 (5) A supervising dentist may not employ more than two dental  
29 hygienists to work under the dentist's general supervision at any given time.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2009.