

SENATE BILL 325

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By: **Senator Conway (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2010

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Dental Examiners – Sunset Extension and Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of continuing the State Board of Dental Examiners in accordance
4 with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by
5 extending to a certain date the termination provisions relating to the statutory
6 and regulatory authority of the Board; requiring that an evaluation of the Board
7 and the statutes and regulations that relate to the Board be performed on or
8 before a certain date; authorizing the solicitation of nominations for certain
9 Board vacancies to be sent by electronic mail; expanding the grounds for
10 discipline for a dentist and dental hygienist; altering certain defined terms;
11 renaming and expanding the services of a certain committee to certain dental
12 professionals; making technical changes; requiring the Board to report to
13 certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and
14 generally relating to the State Board of Dental Examiners.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Health Occupations
17 Section 4–202(b), 4–315(a)(30) and (31) and (b)(16) and (17), 4–501.1, 4–508,
18 and 4–702
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2009 Replacement Volume)

21 BY adding to
22 Article – Health Occupations
23 Section 4–315(a)(32) and (b)(18)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2009 Replacement Volume)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
27 Article – State Government

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 8–403(a)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2009 Replacement Volume)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
5 Article – State Government
6 Section 8–403(b)(16)
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2009 Replacement Volume)

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

11 **Article – Health Occupations**

12 4–202.

13 (b) (1) For each licensed dentist vacancy, the Board shall:

14 (i) Send by **ELECTRONIC** mail **OR REGULAR MAIL** a [written]
15 solicitation for nominations to fill the vacancy to:

16 1. Each dentist licensed by the Board; and

17 2. Each State dental organization affiliated with a
18 national organization; and

19 (ii) Conduct a balloting process by which each dentist licensed
20 by the State is eligible to vote to select the names of the licensed dentists to be
21 submitted to the Governor.

22 (2) For each licensed dental hygienist vacancy, the Board shall:

23 (i) Send by **ELECTRONIC** mail **OR REGULAR MAIL** a [written]
24 solicitation for nominations to fill the vacancy to:

25 1. Each dental hygienist licensed by the Board; and

26 2. Each State dental hygienist organization affiliated
27 with a national organization; and

28 (ii) Conduct a balloting process by which each dental hygienist
29 licensed by the State is eligible to vote to select the names of the licensed dental
30 hygienists to be submitted to the Governor.

31 (3) The Board shall develop guidelines for the solicitation of
32 nominations and balloting process that to the extent possible will result in the overall

1 composition of the Board reasonably reflecting the geographic, racial, ethnic, and
2 gender diversity of the State.

3 4–315.

4 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 4–318 of this subtitle, the Board
5 may deny a general license to practice dentistry, a limited license to practice dentistry,
6 or a teacher’s license to practice dentistry to any applicant, reprimand any licensed
7 dentist, place any licensed dentist on probation, or suspend or revoke the license of
8 any licensed dentist, if the applicant or licensee:

9 (30) Fails to begin to fulfill a public service requirement within 1 year
10 of when the assignment is to begin that was a condition of the applicant or licensee
11 receiving State or federal loans or scholarships for the applicant’s or licensee’s dental
12 education; [or]

13 (31) Fails to comply with any Board order; **OR**

14 **(32) FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE BOARD.**

15 (b) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 4–318 of this subtitle, the Board
16 may deny a general license to practice dental hygiene, a teacher’s license to practice
17 dental hygiene, or a temporary license to practice dental hygiene to any applicant,
18 reprimand any licensed dental hygienist, place any licensed dental hygienist on
19 probation, or suspend or revoke the license of any licensed dental hygienist, if the
20 applicant or licensee:

21 (16) Except in an emergency life–threatening situation where it is not
22 feasible or practicable, fails to comply with the Centers for Disease [Control’s]
23 **CONTROL AND PREVENTION’S** guidelines on universal precautions; [or]

24 (17) Fails to comply with any Board order; **OR**

25 **(18) FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE BOARD.**

26 4–501.1.

27 (a) In this section, [“Dentist Rehabilitation] **“DENTAL WELL–BEING**
28 **Committee”** means the committee of the Maryland State Dental Association that
29 evaluates and provides assistance to any provider of dental care in need of treatment
30 and rehabilitation for alcoholism, drug abuse, chemical dependency, or other physical,
31 emotional, or mental condition.

32 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
33 Maryland State Dental Association shall appoint the members of the [Dentist
34 Rehabilitation] **DENTAL WELL–BEING** Committee.

1 (2) At least one member of the [Dentist Rehabilitation] **DENTAL**
2 **WELL-BEING** Committee shall be a member of the Maryland Dental Society.

3 (c) The Board shall fund the budget of the [Dentist Rehabilitation] **DENTAL**
4 **WELL-BEING** Committee as provided in § 4-207 of this title.

5 (d) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions of the
6 [Dentist Rehabilitation] **DENTAL WELL-BEING** Committee as provided in § 2-1220
7 of the State Government Article.

8 4-508.

9 (a) In this section, “Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE**
10 **WELL-BEING** Committee” means the committee of the Maryland Dental Hygienists’
11 Association that evaluates and provides assistance to any dental hygienist, **DENTAL**
12 **RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST, OR DENTAL ASSISTANT** in need of treatment and
13 rehabilitation for alcoholism, drug abuse, chemical dependency, or other physical,
14 emotional, or mental condition.

15 (b) The Maryland Dental Hygienists’ Association shall appoint the members
16 of the Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE WELL-BEING** Committee.

17 (c) The Board shall fund the budget of the Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation]
18 **HYGIENE WELL-BEING** Committee as provided in § 4-207 of this title.

19 (d) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions of the
20 Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE WELL-BEING** Committee as provided in
21 § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.

22 (e) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the proceedings,
23 records, and files of the Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE WELL-BEING**
24 Committee are not discoverable and are not admissible in evidence in any civil action
25 arising out of matters that are being or have been reviewed and evaluated by the
26 Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE WELL-BEING** Committee.

27 (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to any record or
28 document that is considered by the Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE**
29 **WELL-BEING** Committee and that otherwise would be subject to discovery or
30 introduction into evidence in a civil action.

31 (3) For purposes of this subsection, civil action does not include a
32 proceeding before the Board or judicial review of a proceeding before the Board.

33 (f) A person who acts in good faith and within the scope of jurisdiction of a
34 Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE WELL-BEING** Committee is not civilly
35 liable for any action as a member of the Dental [Hygienist Rehabilitation] **HYGIENE**

1 **WELL-BEING** Committee or for giving information to, participating in, or
2 contributing to the function of the [Rehabilitation] **WELL-BEING** Committee.

3 4-702.

4 Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Program
5 Evaluation Act, this title and all rules and regulations adopted under this title shall
6 terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2011] **2021**.

7 **Article – State Government**

8 8-403.

9 (a) On or before December 15 of the 2nd year before the evaluation date of a
10 governmental activity or unit, the Legislative Policy Committee, based on a
11 preliminary evaluation, may waive as unnecessary the evaluation required under this
12 section.

13 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) of this section, on or before
14 the evaluation date for the following governmental activities or units, an evaluation
15 shall be made of the following governmental activities or units and the statutes and
16 regulations that relate to the governmental activities or units:

17 (16) Dental Examiners, State Board of (§ 4-201 of the Health
18 Occupations Article: July 1, [2010] **2020**);

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of
20 Dental Examiners shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
21 Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on
22 or before October 1, 2011, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
23 Article, on the implementation of recommendations of the Department of Legislative
24 Services contained in the sunset evaluation report dated October 2009.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 June 1, 2010.