

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 841 (Senator Pinsky)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Health and Government Operations

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**State Board of Dental Examiners - Licenses - Examination Requirements for  
Dentists and Dental Hygienists**

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This bill conforms the examination requirements for all individuals coming into Maryland to seek licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist from the State Board of Dental Examiners by requiring passage of the American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) or the American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not materially affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** The major changes proposed under the bill are compared with the relevant current law in **Exhibit 1**.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Proposed Changes under SB 851/HB 754**  
**Compared to Relevant Current Law**

Current Law

Changes Under SB 450/HB 511

**Limited Licensees**

To obtain a general license, certain limited licensees must (1) successfully complete a two-year contractual obligation to provide pediatric dental care; (2) submit an application for a general license; (3) pass the written and clinical examinations of the North East Regional Board; (4) pass the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination; (5) pass the National Board Examinations; (6) demonstrate English competency, and be found to be of good moral character.

A limited licensee must pass ADLEX rather than the written and clinical examination of the North East Regional Board.

**Licensees from Other States**

A dentist from another state seeking licensure in Maryland must have passed a regional board examination, as well as a comprehensive examination of applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning and a law exam.

A dentist from another state must have passed ADLEX and the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination or seek licensure by waiver.

A dental hygienist from another state seeking licensure in Maryland must have passed a regional board examination and an examination given by the board.

A dental hygienist from another state must have passed ADHLEX and the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination or seek licensure by waiver.

**Licensure by Waiver**

A dentist from another state who *has not* passed a regional board qualifies for a license if, for the preceding five years, the dentist has actively practiced for at least 850 hours on average per year and passes a comprehensive examination of applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning and a law exam.

A dentist from another state who *has not* passed ADLEX must meet the existing practice requirements and have passed (1) an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state; (2) a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX); and (3) the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination.

A dental hygienist from another state who *has not* passed a regional board qualifies for a license if, for the preceding three years, the dental hygienist has actively practiced for at least 150 hours on average per year and passes an examination given or designated by the board.

A dental hygienist from another state who *has not* passed ADHLEX must meet the existing practice requirements and have passed (1) an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state; (2) a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and (3) the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

**Background:** The State Board of Dental Examiners issues 11 types of licenses, including a general license to practice dentistry (or dental hygiene) and a limited license to practice dentistry. A limited license is issued to graduates of dental school outside of the United States or Canada and authorizes the licensee to practice dentistry, including as an intern or resident, only for and on patients of a specific institution or public health program named on the license.

ADEX is a test development board serving member state dental boards in developing initial licensure examinations in dentistry and dental hygiene, specifically ADLEX and ADHLEX, which are accepted in 44 states. The North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (NERB) is a consortium of 18 state dental boards that develops, administers, scores, and reports the results of licensure examinations. NERB administers the ADLEX exam, along with its own examinations.

According to the State Board of Dental Examiners, ADLEX is the most comprehensive examination and is becoming the standard in most states. The bill is intended to standardize the qualifications of individuals coming into the state by requiring that they have either passed ADLEX (or ADHLEX as appropriate) or possess other specified qualifications.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 754 (Delegate Kach) - Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2012  
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