

Chapter 24

(Senate Bill 792)

AN ACT concerning

**State Board of Dental Examiners – Expanded Function Dental Assistants –
Education and Reinstatement**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Dental Examiners to approve a certain course of study for expanded function dental assistant certification; requiring that a course of study for initial dental assistant certification include ~~an option for an a~~ certain number of hours of in-person and online ~~course of study when appropriate~~ instruction; requiring the Board to reinstate an expired expanded function dental assistant certification only under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to adopt certain regulations relating to continuing education for expanded function dental assistants; and generally relating to expanded function dental assistants.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health Occupations
 Section 4–302.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Health Occupations
 Section 4–311.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

4–302.1.

- (a) To qualify for a certificate to be an expanded function dental assistant, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.
- (b) The applicant must be of good moral character.
- (c) The applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- (d) The applicant must:
 - (1) Be a high school graduate or have attained a high school equivalency;

(2) Have successfully completed a course of study approved, subject to subsection (e) of this section, by the Board related to the intraoral procedure for which the applicant has applied for a certificate;

(3) Have the appropriate certification from the Dental Assisting National Board;

(4) Have passed any examination provided for in a regulation adopted by the Board; and

(5) Submit to a State criminal history records check.

(e) The Board may not approve a course of study under subsection (d)(2) of this section unless the course of study is part of:

(1) A U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps dental assisting program;

(2) A dental assisting program located within an institution of postsecondary education that is accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education;

(3) A dental assisting program that is located within a high school and is recognized by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the high school accrediting body of a state; [or]

(4) A dental assisting program that is accredited by the Council on Dental Accreditation, or a successor organization;

(5) A DENTAL ASSISTING COURSE OR PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DALE FOUNDATION, AN AFFILIATE OF THE DENTAL ASSISTING NATIONAL BOARD, OR ANY SUCCESSOR ENTITY; OR

(6) AN ORTHODONTIC DENTAL ASSISTING COURSE OR PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE TRAPEZIO ORTHODONTIC ASSISTANT TRAINING SOLUTIONS, OR ANY SUCCESSOR ENTITY.

(F) (1) A COURSE OF STUDY FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE, WHEN APPROPRIATE, AN OPTION FOR AN ONLINE COURSE OF STUDY AT LEAST 35 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION CONSISTING OF BOTH ONLINE AND IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS SPECIFYING THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF HOURS FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, ONLINE INSTRUCTION, AND CLINICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING.

4-311.1.

(A) THE BOARD SHALL REINSTATE AN EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE THAT IS EXPIRED ONLY IF THE HOLDER:

(1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, HAS COMPLETED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SET BY RULE AND REGULATION OF THE BOARD;

(2) HAS SUBMITTED A RENEWAL APPLICATION TO THE BOARD BEFORE THE DEADLINE SET BY THE BOARD; AND

(3) PAYS TO THE BOARD A RENEWAL FEE SET BY THE BOARD.

(B) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS REQUIRING CONTINUING EDUCATION, INCLUDING CLINICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING, FOR EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANTS TO:

~~(1) INCLUDE AN OPTION FOR AN ONLINE COURSE OF STUDY; AND~~

~~(2) BE BE OFFERED BY:~~

~~(1) DENTAL STATE-BASED DENTAL PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL DENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND~~

~~(2) ENTITIES LISTED IN § 4-302.1(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2025.