

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 792
Finance

(Senator Mautz)

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

This bill requires the State Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) to reinstate an expanded function dental assistant (EFDA) certificate that is expired only if the holder (1) has completed the continuing education requirements set by BDE; (2) has submitted a renewal application to BDE before the deadline set by the board; and (3) pays a renewal fee set by BDE. The bill expands the authorized courses of study an applicant may complete to qualify for EFDA certification. BDE must adopt regulations requiring continuing education for EFDAs to (1) include an option for an online course of study and (2) be offered by dental professional societies affiliated with national dental organizations and specified entities. A course of study for initial certification must include, when appropriate, an option for an online course of study.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: BDE may approve a course of study for an applicant to qualify as an EFDA if it is part of (1) a dental assisting course or program offered by the Dale Foundation, an affiliate of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), or any

successor entity or (2) an orthodontic dental assisting course or program offered by the Trapezio Orthodontic Assistant Training Solutions, or any successor entity.

Current Law: An “expanded function dental assistant” means a *licensed* dental assistant who is *certified* by BDE to perform specific intraoral procedures. An EFDA may perform a procedure if a licensed dentist (1) gives specific instructions to perform the procedure and (2) directly supervises the procedure.

Qualifications to Obtain Expanded Function Dental Assistant Certification

To qualify for certification as an EFDA, an applicant must (1) be of good moral character; (2) be at least 18 years old; (3) have graduated high school or attained a high school equivalency; (4) have successfully completed a board-approved course of study related to the intraoral procedure for which the applicant has applied for a certificate; (5) have the appropriate certification from DANB; (6) have passed any examination provided for in regulations adopted by BDE; and (7) submit to a State criminal history records check. The applicant must submit an application as required by BDE and pay an application fee.

An applicant who qualifies for a certificate is entitled to be examined as required by BDE. BDE must notify each qualified applicant of the time and place of the examination. BDE must determine the subjects, scope, form, and the passing score for examinations. An applicant must pay an examination fee to BDE. The fee must be an amount that does not exceed the costs of administering the examination.

Each certificate must include the (1) name of the certified individual; (2) date the certification was issued; (3) intraoral procedures that the individual is qualified to perform; (4) serial number; (5) signatures of the BDE president and secretary; and (6) seal of BDE. The board must replace a lost or destroyed certificate if the certified dental assistant pays a fee set by the board that approximated the actual cost of replacing the certificate.

Approved Course of Study

BDE may not approve a course of study for an applicant to qualify as an EFDA unless it 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 (ED); (3) a dental assisting program that is located within a high school and is recognized by an accrediting body recognized ED 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.

Certificate Renewal and Reinstatement

An EFDA certificate expires on the date set by BDE, unless renewed for an additional term. At least one month before a certificate expires, BDE must send a renewal notice stating the date the current certificate expires, the date by which the renewal application must be received by BDE, and the amount of the renewal fee. The certificate and any renewal must be kept in the office where the dental assistant is employed.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 573 (Delegate Kipke) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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