



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

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**2020 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: HB 391

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board of Dental Examiners – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 391 continues the State Board of Dental Examiners in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board to July 1, 2031.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Dental Board supports HB 391. The Maryland Dental Board is one of the oldest Dental Boards in the country, coming into existence through the Maryland General Assembly in 1884. The Mission of the Board is to protect the citizens of Maryland and to promote quality health care in the field by licensing and regulating the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental radiation technology. The Board licenses approximately 5,000 dentists, 4,000 dental hygienists, and 7,500 dental radiation technologists.

The Discipline Unit of the Board receives approximately 160 complaints each year, principally against dentists. Each of the complaints is subject to a thorough review before the Board makes a determination. If the complaint is without merit the Board may, after an investigation, dismiss the complaint or if warranted, take more serious action. Serious action includes advising the licensee of their wrongdoing in a written Advisory Letter, or bringing formal charges against the licensee for violating dental laws.

The Board encourages its staff to increase their skill level by enrolling in a number of on and off campus classes. Customer service is of paramount importance to the Board. The Board continues to make strides in improving that service. In addition, the Board is proud of its a continuous “E-Mail Blast” program in which it advises its licensees of current trends and relevant issues in dentistry. Some of the more recent e-mail blasts have requested that dentists encourage parents with age-eligible children to initiate or complete the full series of the

HPV vaccine to help prevent the spread of cancers associated with sexually active teens. Other e-mail blasts have advised dentists of the importance of proper training and licensure before

administering anesthesia and sedation. Recently, the Board learned of individuals involved in a telephone scam posing as Board employees and took quick action to notify its licensees and rectify the situation. The Board is proud of its work and continues to strive to improve its efficiency in both its licensing activities and its protection of the public.

Note also that the Board's dentist and dental hygienist members are committed to ensuring that recent graduates become competent members of the profession. Board members regularly serve as examiners at dental and dental hygiene schools throughout the country and in Jamaica.

For these reasons the Dental Board respectfully requests that HB 391 receive a favorable report. I hope that this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Dr. James Goldsmith, Board President at 301-367-2352, jgoldsm217@comcast.net, or Dr. Arpana Verma, the Board's Legislative Committee Chair at 240-498-8159, asverma93@gmail.com. In addition, the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Frank McLaughlin, may be reached at 443-878-5253, frank.maclaughlin@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this support position paper does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

