



The Maryland State Dental Association Supports SB 749 – State Board of Dental Examiners- Applicants Licensed or Certified in Another State
Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association

Frequently members of the Maryland State Dental Association (“MSDA”) encounter practice crises created when a partner or employee in the practice must take an extended leave of absence for various reasons. Illness of the employee or a family member, or a call to active military duty, for example. Filling this person’s role in the practice is problematic. The shortages in Maryland’s dental workforce makes it difficult, if not nearly impossible, to find a Maryland licensed dental hygienist, a certified dental radiation technologist, and to a lesser extent, a licensed dentist to replace the person on an extended absence. While still difficult, out-of-state dental personnel are easier to find, but to assure that they can receive a Maryland license or certification promptly is the issue.

Maryland does have provisions in its Maryland Dentistry Act that establish the requirements for licensing out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists. It is in essence “Licensure by Credentials”. However, there is no provision for “certification by credentials” for dental radiation technologists. Thus, SB 749 does the following:

(1) Requires that the Board approve or deny a completed application of an out-of-state applicant within 15 business days. It is true that the Board has stated on numerous occasions that it acts on these applications within 10 to 15 days, however, the Act does not require that the Board act quickly. Personnel and policies change over time, and the dental community should have statutory assurance of prompt action.

(2) SB 749 establishes a statutory provision for certification of out-of-state dental radiation technologists comparable to the licensure of out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists. It also requires that the Board approve or deny a completed application within 15 business days.

SB 749 will provide assistance for dental practices, especially for small dental practices, that face the need to fill the positions of dental personnel who must take long leaves of absence due to a variety of disruptive events in their lives. It will also assist these practices to continue providing continuity of care to their patients on a timely basis.

For these reasons the Maryland State Dental Association Requests that SB 749 receive a Favorable Report.

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