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HB 573 – State Board of Dental Examiners – Expanded Function Dental Assistants – Education and Reinstatement

In 2022 I sponsored HB 968 which established under the State Board of Dental Examiners the dental assistant category of Expanded Function Dental Assistant or EFDAs. The bill authorized dental assistants to obtain a certification after complying with the educational and other requirements under the bill and as provided by the Board of Dental Examiners (BDE). An EFDA may be certified by the BDE to perform at least one of five expanded Functions.

As one could expect compromise language was amended into the bill to address concerns of interested parties. One of these amendments involved the courses that the BDE could authorize, and these courses had to be a 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 education department 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.

Unfortunately, this language eliminated two key educational programs that are essential to facilitating the education of the EFDA applicants. The courses and programs barred by the current language in §4-301.1(b) of the Dentistry Act are: 1) the courses offered by the **Dale Foundation, an affiliate of the Dental Assisting National Board**, despite the fact the one of the requirements an applicant must meet is to “Have the appropriate certification from the Dental Assisting National Board”; and 2) orthodontic dental assisting courses or program offered by **Trapezio Orthodontic Assisting Solutions**, which provides essential courses for the education of Orthopedic EFDAs. Many of these courses are available online. I would point out that online

courses, when appropriate, are essential for dental assistants who are working, many of whom also have family or other responsibilities.

In short HB 573 corrects this problem. It also specifies which entities may offered CE courses once they have been approved by the Board. Finally, it establishes the requirements for reinstating an expired EFDA certification.

I would ask the Committee to favorably consider the merits of HB 573.