



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners
Spring Grove Hospital Center
Benjamin Rush Bldg.
55 Wade Ave/Tulip Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Senate Bill 792 – State Board of Dental Examiners – Expanded Function Dental Assistants -
Education and Reinstatement – Support as Amended

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners respectfully submits this support as amended position paper for Senate Bill 792 – State Board of Dental Examiners – Expanded Function Dental Assistants - Education and Reinstatement. The bill as introduced added the Dale Foundation, an affiliate of the Dental Assisting National Board, and an orthodontic dental assisting course offered by the Trapezio Orthodontic Assistant Training Solutions, to those programs that may provide a course of study for the initial certification of expanded function dental assistants.

As amended the bill requires the Board to provide a course of study for initial certification that includes at least 35 hours of instruction consisting of both online and in person instruction, and the regulations adopted by the Board must specify the number of hours for clinical hands-on training, and the number of hours of instruction that may be either online or in person.

With respect to continuing education requirements the amendments make clear that continuing education may be offered by a U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps dental assisting program, 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, 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, a dental assisting program that is accredited by the Council on Dental Accreditation, and as added by the amendments, “Maryland based dental professional societies affiliated with national dental organizations.”

The Board supports the bill as amended.

For the foregoing reasons the Board requests that SB 792 receive a favorable report.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 202-997-2606 or chiyo.alie@maryland.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.

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Board President