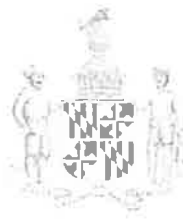


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**HB 723 – State Board of Dental Examiners—Applicants Licensed or Certified
in Another State**

Background: As we all know there are work force shortages of dental hygienists and dental radiation technologists in Maryland. When a dentist, dental hygienist or radiation technologist must take leave due to such things as: illness, illness of a family member, military duty etc. the impact is significant, especially for smaller practices. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to hire a replacement practitioner licensed or certified in Maryland. Sometimes, however, there are individuals licensed or certified in another state willing to assist the practice, but they are not licensed in Maryland.

There are existing provisions in the Maryland Dentistry Act that provide the procedures for licensure of out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists. However, there are no provisions for the certification of out-of-state dental radiation technologists. The requirements for licensure of out-of-state dental hygienists and dentists are in §4-306(b)(1) and (2) of the Maryland Dentistry Act.

HB 723 Addresses these Issues: While it is true that the Board currently grants or denies licensure to out-of-state dental dentists and dental hygienists within 10 to 15 days of receiving an application, it is not required by law. Clearly, replacing a practitioner in a dental office for an extended time period is a circumstance that warrants a guarantee of expedited action. That is why HB 723 legislatively requires that the Board act on a completed application for licensure within 15 business days. While I acknowledge that on numerous occasions the Board has affirmed that they act on these applications within this time frame, changes could occur that would modify current practice. Thus, we need this bill to protect the dental practices, especially small practices, from the effects of long-term absences of personnel - not only the financial effect, but even more importantly, the potential negative impact on the continuity of care for its patients.

Purpose of §4-505.1: There currently is no provision within the Maryland Dentistry Act which provides for the certification of out-of-state dental radiation technologists. §4-505.1 establishes a statutory procedure to certify these dental radiation technologists, comparable to the current law for dentists and dental hygienists. It also establishes a statutory requirement that the Board act on a completed application within 15 business days.