

By the Committee on Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; and
Senator Fasano

317-1820-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to dental licensure
3 examinations; amending s. 466.006, F.S.;
4 allowing certain dental students to take the
5 examination required for practicing dentistry
6 in this state; creating s. 466.0065, F.S.;
7 allowing certain dental students to take
8 regional licensure examinations under specified
9 conditions; restricting the applicability of
10 examination results; requiring approval by the
11 Board of Dentistry and providing prerequisites
12 to such approval; providing an effective.

14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 466.006, Florida
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 466.006 Examination of dentists.--

19 (2) An applicant shall be entitled to take the
20 examinations required in this section to practice dentistry in
21 this state if the applicant:

22 (a) Is 18 years of age or older.

23 (b)1. Is a graduate of a dental school accredited by
24 the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental
25 Association or its successor agency, if any, or any other
26 nationally recognized accrediting agency; ~~or-~~

27 2. Is a dental student in the final year of such an
28 accredited school and has completed all the coursework
29 necessary to prepare him or her to perform the clinical and
30 didactic procedures required to pass the examination. With
31 respect to a dental student in his or her final year of dental

1 school, a passing score on the examination is valid for 180
2 days after the date the examination was completed. Pursuant to
3 s. 466.011, a dental student who takes the licensure
4 examination during his or her final year of an approved dental
5 school must have graduated before being certified for
6 licensure.

7 (c) Has successfully completed the National Board of
8 Dental Examiners dental examination within 10 years before ~~of~~
9 the date of application.

10 Section 2. Section 466.0065, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 466.0065 Regional licensure examinations.--

13 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that schools
14 of dentistry be allowed to offer regional licensure
15 examinations to dental students who are in the final year of
16 an approved dental school for the sole purpose of facilitating
17 the student's licensing in other jurisdictions. This section
18 does not allow a person to be licensed as a dentist in this
19 state without taking the examination as set forth in s.
20 466.006 nor does this section mean that regional examinations
21 administered under this section may be substituted for
22 complying with testing requirements under s. 466.006.

23 (2) Each school of dentistry in this state which is
24 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American
25 Dental Association or its successor agency may, upon written
26 approval by the Board of Dentistry, offer regional licensure
27 examinations only to dental students in the final year of an
28 approved dental school, if the board has determined that the
29 dental school hosting the examination will comply with the
30 following conditions:

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1 (a) The examining body must be a member of the
2 American Association of Dental Examiners.

3 (b) The student must have successfully completed parts
4 I and II of the National Board of Dental Examiners
5 examination within 2 years before taking the regional
6 examination.

7 (c) The student must possess medical malpractice
8 insurance in amounts that the board determines to be
9 sufficient to cover any reasonably foreseeable incident of harm
10 to a patient during the clinical portion of the examination.

11 (d) The examination must be monitored by dentists
12 licensed in this state who are approved by the board and who
13 have completed a mandatory standardization exercise before
14 each practical or clinical examination.

15 (e) Adequate arrangements must be made, when
16 necessary, for patients who require followup care as a result
17 of procedures performed during the clinical portion of the
18 examination.

19 (f) The board chairman or the chairman's designee must
20 be allowed to observe testing while it is in progress.

21 (g) Each student, upon applying to take the regional
22 examination, must receive written disclosure in at least
23 12-point boldface type which states: "This examination does
24 not meet the licensure requirements of chapter 466, Florida
25 Statutes, for licensure in the State of Florida. Persons
26 wishing to practice dentistry in Florida must pass the Florida
27 licensure examination. For more information on Florida's
28 licensure examination procedures, please contact the Florida
29 Board of Dentistry."

30 (h) The student must be enrolled as a dental student
31 in his or her final year of an approved dental school that is

1 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American
2 Dental Association or its successor agency.

3 (i) The student must have completed all the coursework
4 necessary to prepare him or her to perform all clinical and
5 didactic procedures required to pass the examination.

6 (j) The student's academic record must not include any
7 evidence suggesting that the student poses an unreasonable
8 risk to any live patients who are required for the clinical
9 examination. In order to protect the health and safety of the
10 residents of this state, the board may request additional
11 information and documents pertaining to the candidate's mental
12 and physical health in order to fully assess the candidate's
13 fitness to engage in exercises involving a live patient.

14 (3) A student who takes a regional examination
15 pursuant to this section does not have standing to assert that
16 a state agency has taken action for which a hearing may be
17 sought under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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20 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
21 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
22 SB 572

23 The Committee Substitute revises references to
24 "second-semester seniors" to "students in the final year of
25 attendance." The bill revises requirements for dental students
26 to sit for the state dental licensure examination and to
27 become licensed by:

- 26 - restricting the validity of a student's passing score on
27 the state dental licensure examination to 180 days after
28 the date the examination was completed; and
29 - requiring the student to have graduated before he or she
30 may be certified for licensure.
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