

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

309-2327-03

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 appropriation  
13          and authorizing a position; providing an  
14          effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

20           466.006 Examination of dentists.--

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

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

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

29           2. Is a dental student in the final year of such an  
30 accredited school and has completed all the coursework  
31 necessary to prepare him or her to perform the clinical and

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

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

12 Section 2. Section 466.0065, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 466.0065 Regional licensure examinations.--

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

25 (2) Each school of dentistry in this state which is  
26 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American  
27 Dental Association or its successor agency may, upon written  
28 approval by the Board of Dentistry, offer regional licensure  
29 examinations only to dental students in the final year of an  
30 approved dental school, if the board has approved the hosting  
31

1 school's submitted written plan to comply with the following  
2 conditions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (h) The student must be enrolled as a dental student  
2 in his or her final year of an approved dental school that is  
3 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American  
4 Dental Association or its successor agency.

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

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

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

20           Section 3. The sum of \$58,179 is appropriated from the  
21 Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund to the Department of  
22 Health, and one position is authorized for the purpose of  
23 implementing this act during the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

24           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
CS for Senate Bill 572

The Committee Substitute provides that regional licensure exams may be provided only to dental students in the final year, of an approved dental school, if the board has approved the hosting school's submitted written plan that complies with specified conditions.

The bill appropriates \$58,179 from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund to the Department of Health and authorizes one position during FY 2003-04.