



1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to dentistry; amending ss. 381.7353 and  
 3           381.7355, F.S.; including oral health care in the Closing  
 4           the Gap grant program; amending s. 466.006, F.S.; allowing  
 5           certain dental students to take the examinations required  
 6           to practice dentistry in this state under specified  
 7           conditions; providing a prerequisite to licensure of such  
 8           students; creating s. 466.0065, F.S.; allowing certain  
 9           dental students to take regional licensure examinations  
 10          under specified conditions; restricting the applicability  
 11          of examination results to licensing in other  
 12          jurisdictions; requiring approval by the Board of  
 13          Dentistry and providing prerequisites to such approval;  
 14          providing an effective date.

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

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 18           Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
 19           381.7353, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20           381.7353 Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities:  
 21 Closing the Gap grant program; administration; department  
 22 duties.--

23           (2) The department shall:

24           (e) Coordinate with existing community-based programs,  
 25 such as chronic disease community intervention programs, cancer  
 26 prevention and control programs, diabetes control programs, oral  
 27 health care programs, the Healthy Start program, the Florida  
 28 KidCare Program, the HIV/AIDS program, immunization programs,



29 and other related programs at the state and local levels, to  
30 avoid duplication of effort and promote consistency.

31 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
32 381.7355, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

33 381.7355 Project requirements; review criteria.--

34 (2) A proposal must include each of the following  
35 elements:

36 (a) The purpose and objectives of the proposal, including  
37 identification of the particular racial or ethnic disparity the  
38 project will address. The proposal must address one or more of  
39 the following priority areas:

40 1. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in maternal  
41 and infant mortality rates.

42 2. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
43 and mortality rates relating to cancer.

44 3. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
45 and mortality rates relating to HIV/AIDS.

46 4. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
47 and mortality rates relating to cardiovascular disease.

48 5. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
49 and mortality rates relating to diabetes.

50 6. Increasing adult and child immunization rates in  
51 certain racial and ethnic populations.

52 7. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in oral health  
53 care.

54 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 466.006, Florida  
55 Statutes, is amended to read:

56 466.006 Examination of dentists.--



57 (2) An applicant shall be entitled to take the  
 58 examinations required in this section to practice dentistry in  
 59 this state if the applicant:

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

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

65 2. Is a dental student in the final year of such an  
 66 accredited school who has completed all the coursework necessary  
 67 to prepare him or her to perform the clinical and diagnostic  
 68 procedures required to pass the examinations. With respect to a  
 69 dental student in his or her final year of dental school, a  
 70 passing score on the examinations is valid for 180 days after  
 71 the date the examinations were completed. A dental school  
 72 student who takes the licensure examinations during his or her  
 73 final year of an approved dental school must have graduated  
 74 before being certified for licensure pursuant to s. 466.011.

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

78 Section 4. Section 466.0065, Florida Statutes, is created  
 79 to read:

80 466.0065 Regional licensure examinations.--

81 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that schools of  
 82 dentistry be allowed to offer regional licensure examinations to  
 83 dental students who are in the final year of an approved dental  
 84 school for the sole purpose of facilitating the student's



85 licensing in other jurisdictions. This section does not allow a  
86 person to be licensed as a dentist in this state without taking  
87 the examinations as set forth in s. 466.006, nor does this  
88 section mean that regional examinations administered under this  
89 section may be substituted for complying with testing  
90 requirements under s. 466.006.

91 (2) Each school of dentistry in this state which is  
92 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American  
93 Dental Association or its successor agency may, upon written  
94 approval by the Board of Dentistry, offer regional licensure  
95 examinations only to dental students in the final year of an  
96 approved dental school, if the board has approved the hosting  
97 school's submitted written plan to comply with the following  
98 conditions:

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

101 (b) The student must have successfully completed parts I  
102 and II of the National Board of Dental Examiners examination  
103 within 2 years before taking the regional examination.

104 (c) The student must possess medical malpractice insurance  
105 in amounts that the board determines to be sufficient to cover  
106 any reasonably foreseeable incident of harm to a patient during  
107 the clinical portion of the regional examination.

108 (d) At least one of the examination monitors must be a  
109 Florida-licensed dentist who has completed all necessary  
110 standardization exercises required by the regional examination  
111 body.



112       (e) Adequate arrangements must be made, when necessary,  
113 for patients who require followup care as a result of procedures  
114 performed during the clinical portion of the regional  
115 examination.

116       (f) The board chair or the chair's designee must be  
117 allowed to observe testing while it is in progress.

118       (g) Each student, upon applying to take the regional  
119 examination, must receive written disclosure in at least 12-  
120 point boldface type which states: "This examination does not  
121 meet the licensure requirements of chapter 466, Florida  
122 Statutes, for licensure in the State of Florida. Persons wishing  
123 to practice dentistry in Florida must pass the Florida licensure  
124 examinations. For more information on Florida's licensure  
125 examination procedures, please contact the Florida Board of  
126 Dentistry."

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

131       (i) The student must have completed all the coursework  
132 necessary to prepare him or her to perform all clinical and  
133 diagnostic procedures required to pass the regional examination.

134       (j) The student's academic record must not include any  
135 evidence suggesting that the student poses an unreasonable risk  
136 to any live patients who are required for the clinical portion  
137 of the regional examination. In order to protect the health and  
138 safety of the residents of this state, the board may request  
139 additional information and documents pertaining to the



140 candidate's mental and physical health in order to fully assess  
141 the candidate's fitness to engage in exercises involving a live  
142 patient.

143 (3) Neither a student who takes the examination pursuant  
144 to this section, nor a dental school submitting a plan pursuant  
145 to this section, nor a regional examination body which a dental  
146 school proposed to host pursuant to this section has standing to  
147 assert that a state agency has taken action for which a hearing  
148 may be sought under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

149 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.