

HB 0203

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to dental licensure; amending s. 466.006, F.S.; allowing certain dental students to take the examinations required to practice dentistry in this state under specified conditions; providing a prerequisite to licensure of such students; creating s. 466.0065, F.S.; allowing certain dental students to take regional licensure examinations under specified conditions; restricting the applicability of examination results to licensing in other jurisdictions; requiring approval by the Board of Dentistry and providing prerequisites to such approval; denying certain persons and entities standing to assert right to administrative hearing proceedings; providing an effective date.

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

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

466.006 Examination of dentists.--

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

(a) Is 18 years of age or older.

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

2. Is a dental student in the final year of a program at such an accredited school who has completed all the coursework

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31 necessary to prepare the student to perform the clinical and
 32 diagnostic procedures required to pass the examinations. With
 33 respect to a dental student in the final year of a program at a
 34 dental school, a passing score on the examinations is valid for
 35 180 days after the date the examinations were completed. A
 36 dental school student who takes the licensure examinations
 37 during the student's final year of an approved dental school
 38 must have graduated before being certified for licensure
 39 pursuant to s. 466.011.

40 (c) Has successfully completed the National Board of
 41 Dental Examiners dental examination within 10 years of the date
 42 of application.

43 Section 2. Section 466.0065, Florida Statutes, is created
 44 to read:

45 466.0065 Regional licensure examinations.--

46 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that schools of
 47 dentistry be allowed to offer regional licensure examinations to
 48 dental students who are in the final year of a program at an
 49 approved dental school for the sole purpose of facilitating the
 50 student's licensing in other jurisdictions. This section does
 51 not allow a person to be licensed as a dentist in this state
 52 without taking the examinations as set forth in s. 466.006, nor
 53 does this section mean that regional examinations administered
 54 under this section may be substituted for complying with testing
 55 requirements under s. 466.006.

56 (2) Each school of dentistry in this state which is
 57 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American
 58 Dental Association or its successor agency may, upon written
 59 approval by the Board of Dentistry, offer regional licensure
 60 examinations only to dental students in the final year of a

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61 program at an approved dental school, if the board has approved
62 the hosting school's written plan to comply with the following
63 conditions:

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

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

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

73 (d) At least one of the examination monitors must be a
74 dentist licensed in this state who has completed all necessary
75 standardization exercises required by the regional examination
76 body.

77 (e) Adequate arrangements must be made, when necessary,
78 for patients who require followup care as a result of procedures
79 performed during the clinical portion of the regional
80 examination.

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

83 (g) Each student, upon applying to take the regional
84 examination, must receive written disclosure in at least 12-
85 point boldface type which states: "This examination does not
86 meet the licensure requirements of chapter 466, Florida
87 Statutes, for licensure in the State of Florida. Persons wishing
88 to practice dentistry in Florida must pass the Florida licensure
89 examinations. For more information on Florida's licensure

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90 examination procedures, please contact the Florida Board of
91 Dentistry."

92 (h) The student must be enrolled as a dental student in
93 the student's final year of a program at an approved dental
94 school that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of
95 the American Dental Association or its successor agency.

96 (i) The student must have completed all the coursework
97 necessary to prepare the student to perform all clinical and
98 diagnostic procedures required to pass the regional examination.

99 (j) The student's academic record must not include any
100 evidence suggesting that the student poses an unreasonable risk
101 to any live patients who are required for the clinical portion
102 of the regional examination. In order to protect the health and
103 safety of the public, the board may request additional
104 information and documents pertaining to the candidate's mental
105 and physical health in order to fully assess the candidate's
106 fitness to engage in exercises involving a live patient.

107 (3) A student who takes the examination pursuant to this
108 section, a dental school that submits a plan pursuant to this
109 section, or a regional examination body that a dental school
110 proposes to host under this section does not have standing to
111 assert that a state agency has taken action for which a hearing
112 may be sought under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

113 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.