

By Senator Fasano

11-119A-04

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

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

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

21           466.006 Examination of dentists.--

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

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

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

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

1 coursework necessary to prepare the student to perform the  
2 clinical and diagnostic procedures required to pass the  
3 examinations. With respect to a dental student in the final  
4 year of a program at a dental school, a passing score on the  
5 examinations is valid for 180 days after the date the  
6 examinations were completed. A dental school student who takes  
7 the licensure examinations during the student's final year of  
8 an approved dental school must have graduated before being  
9 certified for licensure pursuant to s. 466.011.

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

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

15 466.0065 Regional licensure examinations.--

16 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that schools  
17 of dentistry be allowed to offer regional licensure  
18 examinations to dental students who are in the final year of a  
19 program at an approved dental school for the sole purpose of  
20 facilitating the student's licensing in other jurisdictions.  
21 This section does not allow a person to be licensed as a  
22 dentist in this state without taking the examinations as set  
23 forth in s. 466.006, nor does this section mean that regional  
24 examinations administered under this section may be  
25 substituted for complying with testing requirements under s.  
26 466.006.

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

1 program at an approved dental school, if the board has  
2 approved the hosting school's written plan to comply with the  
3 following conditions:

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

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

14 (d) At least one of the examination monitors must be a  
15 dentist licensed in this state who has completed all necessary  
16 standardization exercises required by the regional examination  
17 body.

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

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

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

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

7 (i) The student must have completed all the coursework  
8 necessary to prepare the student to perform all clinical and  
9 diagnostic procedures required to pass the regional  
10 examination.

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

20 (3) A student who takes the examination pursuant to  
21 this section, a dental school that submits a plan pursuant to  
22 this section, or a regional examination body that a dental  
23 school proposes to host under this section does not have  
24 standing to assert that a state agency has taken action for  
25 which a hearing may be sought under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Allows certain dental students to take the examinations required for practicing dentistry in this state under specified conditions. Provides a prerequisite to the licensure of such students. Allows certain dental students to take regional licensure examinations under specified conditions. Restricts the applicability of the examination results to licensing in other jurisdictions. Requires approval by the Board of Dentistry and provides prerequisites to such approval.