

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senator Fasano

309-2199-04

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) A member of the regional examination body's board
5 of directors or equivalent thereof must be a member of the
6 American Association of Dental Examiners.

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

10 (c) The student must possess medical malpractice
11 insurance in amounts not less than the amounts required to
12 take the Florida licensure examinations.

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

18 (e) Adequate arrangements, as defined by the regional
19 examination body and as otherwise required by law, must be
20 made, when necessary, for patients who require followup care
21 as a result of procedures performed during the clinical
22 portion of the regional examination. The regional examination
23 body must inform patients in writing of their right to
24 followup care in advance of any procedures performed by a
25 student.

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

28 (g) Each student, upon being deemed eligible by the
29 dental school to apply to the regional examination body to
30 take the regional examination, must receive written disclosure
31 in at least 12-point boldface type that states: "This

1 examination does not meet the licensure requirements of
2 chapter 466, Florida Statutes, for licensure in the State of
3 Florida. Persons wishing to practice dentistry in Florida must
4 pass the Florida licensure examinations."

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

9 (i) The student must have completed all coursework
10 deemed necessary by the dental school to prepare the student
11 to perform all clinical and diagnostic procedures required to
12 pass the regional examination.

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

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

28 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 490

Changes responsibilities for student eligibility and examination monitor eligibility and recruitment from the Board of Dentistry to the dental schools and the regional examination body, respectively.

Clarifies that a member of the regional examination body, rather than the examination body itself, must be a member of the American Association of Dental Examiners.

Designates the amount of malpractice insurance required by the student taking the exam rather than leaving the standard to be determined by the regional examination body.