

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

BILL: SB 1366

INTRODUCER: Senator Brodeur

SUBJECT: Licensure Examinations for Dental Practitioners

DATE: March 23, 2021

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rossitto Van-Winkle	Brown	HP	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	JU	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1366 authorizes the Board of Dentistry (BOD), within the Department of Health (DOH), to accept passing examination scores for the dental and dental hygiene clinical licensure examinations developed and administered by the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) for licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist as an additional clinical licensure examination. The bill also:

- Amends legislative intent;
- Requires the BOD to maintain representation on the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc.(ADEX) and the WREB’s boards of directors, examination development committees, and any additional committees the BOD requires to ensure examination standards are maintained;
- Authorizes clinical licensure examinations for dentists and dental hygienists to utilize mannequins¹ during the examinations upon BOD approval; and
- Makes additional conforming changes.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

II. Present Situation:

The Practice of Dentistry

The BOD regulates dental practice in Florida, including dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants under the Dental Practice Act.² A dentist is licensed to examine, diagnose, treat, and

¹ The word “mannequin” is used in ss. 466.006 and 466.007, F.S., but the word “manikin” is used throughout all the materials researched, including the American Dental Association and the various dental and dental hygiene testing agencies, so they will be used interchangeably in this analysis.

² Section 466.004, F.S.

care for conditions within the human oral cavity and its adjacent tissues and structures.³ A dental hygienist provides education, preventive, and delegated therapeutic dental services.⁴

Florida currently uses the American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) and the American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX) for its clinical examinations. Both are produced by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (ADEX),⁵ as the legislatively mandated state licensure examinations for dentists and dental hygienists.⁶ Both clinical examinations are administered by two national testing agencies:

- Commission for Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA).
- Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA).

According to the American Dental Association (ADA) and the ADEX, there are currently five national clinical testing agencies:^{7,8}

- Commission for Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA);
- Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA);
- Central Regional Dental Testing Services, Inc. (CRDTS);
- Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA); and
- Western Regional Examining Board (WREB).

Only three jurisdictions currently administer their own clinical examinations:

- California;
- Delaware; and
- The U.S. Virgin Islands.⁹

Dentists

The requirements for dental licensure in Florida are found in s. 466.006, F.S. An applicant must apply to the DOH to take and pass the following examinations:

- The ADLEX;¹⁰ and
- An exam on Florida laws and rules relating to dentistry.

³ Section 466.003(3), F.S.

⁴ Section 466.003(4) and (5), F.S.

⁵ The American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (ADEX) develops both dental and dental hygiene clinical examinations. The first ADLEX exam was produced by the ADEX and administered in 2005; and is now simply called the “ADEX Dental Exam” or the “ADEX Dental Hygiene Exam.” The ADEX does not administer examinations. For clarity purposes, this analysis will continue to refer to American Dental Licensing Examination as the “ADLEX,” the American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination as the “ADHLEX,” and reserve the abbreviation “ADEX” for the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc.

⁶ See ss. 466.006(4)(b) and 466.007(4)(b), F.S.

⁷ American Dental Association, *Licensure Pathways*, available at <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/licensure/licensure-dental-students/licensure-pathways> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021).

⁸ The American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., ADEX. *What ADEX Does* available at <https://adexexams.org/about-adex/> (last visited Mar. 19, 2021).

⁹ American Dental Association, *Understanding Licensure*, available at <http://www.ada.org/en/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/understanding-licensure> (last visited Mar. 21, 2021).

¹⁰ Section 466.006, F.S.

To take the ADLEX clinical examination, a dental applicant must be at least 18 years of age and must be:

- A graduate from a dental school accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or any other dental accrediting entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE); or
- A dental student in the final year of a program at an ADA-CODA-accredited dental school who has completed all the coursework necessary to prepare the student to perform the clinical and diagnostic procedures required to pass the examinations. A passing score on the examination is valid for 365 days; and
- Have passed Parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE), administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE).¹¹

Current law requires the ADLEX clinical dental examination to include the following:

- Comprehensive diagnostic skills examination including an examination, clinical diagnosis and treatment planning;
- Two restorations on a live patient or patients;¹²
- Demonstration of periodontal skills on a live patient;
- Demonstration of prosthetics and restorative skills in complete and partial dentures and crowns and bridges and the utilization of practical methods of evaluation;
- Demonstration of restorative skills on a manikin including procedures performed in preparation for a cast restoration;
- Demonstration of endodontic skills; and
- Diagnostic skills examination demonstrating ability to diagnose conditions within the human oral cavity and its adjacent tissues and structures from photographs, slides, radiographs, or models.¹³

A dental school graduate from a school not accredited by the ADA CODA, a United States DOE-recognized dental accrediting entity, or approved by the BOD, and desiring to take the ADLEX, is not entitled to do so unless the applicant:

- Demonstrates completion of a program defined by BOD rule at an accredited American dental school and receives either a D.D.S. or D.M.D. from the school; or
- Submits proof of successful completion of at least two consecutive years at a full-time supplemental general dentistry program accredited by the ADA CODA.

¹¹ American Dental Association, Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, *About the JCNDE*, available at <https://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/about-us> (last visited Mar. 19, 2021) The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) is the agency responsible for the development and administration of the National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE). This 16-member Commission includes representatives from dental schools, dental practice, state dental examining boards, dental hygiene, dental students, and the public.

¹² See Fla. Admin. Code R. 64B5-2.013 (2021), which specified the class of restorations required for the clinical examination. It was repealed by the BOD in May 2012, after the clinical examination was transitioned to the ADLEX, because the ADEX had specified the class of restorations required to be performed in the ADLEX.

¹³ Section 466.006(5)(a), F.S.

Dental Hygienists

The requirements for licensure as a dental hygienist are found in s. 466.007, F.S. An applicant must apply to the DOH to take the ADHLEX and is entitled to licensure if he or she is 18 years of age or older and has:¹⁴

- Graduated from a dental hygiene college or school that is:
 - Board approved;
 - Accredited by the ADA CODA;
 - Accredited by any other dental accrediting entity recognized by the United States DOE;
- Passed the Florida Laws and Rules examination; and
- Passed the ADHLEX examination.

A dentist who is a graduate of an accredited dental college or school or a graduate of an unaccredited dental college or school, may also take the ADHLEX and obtain licensure as a dental hygienist if he or she meets certain additional criteria.¹⁵

Dental and Dental Hygiene Examinations

The Legislature has authorized the BOD to use the ADLEX and the ADHLEX developed by ADEX in lieu of an independent state-developed practical or clinical examination for both dentists and dental hygienists.¹⁶ Dental licensure is a process every dentist must go through, and, in the United States, licensure requirements vary from state to state. State legislatures and dental boards establish the licensure requirements, including which licensure examinations its prospective licensees must take and pass as evidence of clinical competence for a dental license.

The American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX)

The ADLEX clinical examination administered by CDCA and the CITA is accepted in 48 states plus Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and the United States Virgin Islands.¹⁷ The ADLEX clinical examination is given in two formats:

- The traditional format;^{18,19} and
- The Patient-Centered Curriculum Integrated Format (PC CIF).^{20,21}

¹⁴ Section 466.007, F.S.

¹⁵ See s. 466.007 (2)(b)1. and (3), F.S.

¹⁶ See ss. 466.006(4)(b) and 466.007(4)(b), F.S.

¹⁷ The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, *2021 ADEX Acceptance Maps, Dental*, available at <https://www.cdcaexams.org/ADEX-acceptance-map/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021). Only New York and Delaware do not accept the ADEX dental examination.

¹⁸ The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, *Dental (ADEX)*, available at <https://www.cdcaexams.org/dental-exams/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021).

¹⁹ American Dental Association, *Licensure Pathways*, available at <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/licensure/licensure-dental-students/licensure-pathways> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021).

²⁰ See note 18.

²¹ American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., *ADEX Patient Centered Curriculum Integrated Format (PC CIF)*, *ADEX* available at <https://ADEXexams.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ADEX-Patient-Centered-Curriculum-Integrated-Format-PC-CIF-2.pdf> (last visited Mar. 19, 2021). The PC CIF format focuses on patient care needs, rather than the candidate's examination. The examination itself is identical to the ADEX Licensing Examination for initial licensure in dentistry.

The traditional format uses a clinical manikin and patient-based examinations administered in a single sitting at the end of a dental student's senior year by a testing agency or individual state. It is for those students who have elected not to take the PC CIF or for those who have already graduated from dental school.²²

The PC CIF is an alternative to the traditional format. The PC CIF option is offered by the CRDTS, CITA, CDCA, and SRTA, but not the WREB. The PC CIF allows dental students to be examined in sections, during the fourth year of dental school. With the PC CIF, the manikin-based clinical examinations are administered late in the junior year or early in the senior year, and the clinical patient-based examinations are administered during the senior year. Only students or graduates of schools accredited by the ADA CODA or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada may take the ADLEX PC CIF clinical examination.²³

All other candidates (including international graduates) must apply through a state's dental board in the state or jurisdiction where they wish to practice for permission to take an examination for licensure only in that state or jurisdiction.

The ADLEX examination series includes computer simulations and clinical examinations performed on patients and manikins and is an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).²⁴ There are five skill-specific components including a high-fidelity computerized OSCE testing a candidate's ability to apply knowledge to the care of patients. The five areas are:

- Diagnostic Skill Examination;
- Restorative – Anterior and Posterior;
- Prosthodontics;²⁵
- Endodontics;²⁶ and
- Periodontal Scaling.

The cost of taking the full dental ADLEX examination is \$2,295 plus ancillary fees.²⁷

²² *Id.*

²³ Section 466.006(2)(b), F.S.

²⁴ National Institute of Health, US National Library of Medicine, *Oman Med J.* 2011 Jul; 26(4): 219–222, *Objective Structured Clinical Examination: The Assessment of Choice*, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3191703/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021). The Objective Structured Clinical Examination is a versatile multipurpose evaluative tool that can be utilized to assess health care professionals in a clinical setting. It assesses competency, based on objective testing through direct observation. It is precise, objective, and reproducible allowing uniform testing of students for a wide range of clinical skills. Unlike the traditional clinical exam, the OSCE could evaluate areas most critical to performance of health care professionals such as communication skills and ability to handle unpredictable patient behavior.

²⁵ Prosthodontics is the branch of dentistry concerned with the design, manufacture, and fitting of artificial replacements for teeth and other parts of the mouth.

²⁶ Endodontics is the branch of dentistry concerning dental pulp and tissues surrounding the roots of a tooth. Endodontic treatment, or root canal treatment, treats the soft pulp tissue inside the tooth.

²⁷ See note 18.

The Western Regional Examining Board Examination (WREB) – Dental

The WREB dental examination is fully accepted in 21 states²⁸ with 16 other states accepting successful results only in support of initial licensure.²⁹ The WREB does not require membership as a pre-requisite for utilization of its dental and dental hygiene examinations. The WREB does not require the passage of Part I and Part II of the national dental boards prior to taking the WREB clinical examination and does not administer state-specific jurisprudence examinations.³⁰

The 2021 WREB dental examination consists of the following sections:³¹

- Operative;
- Endodontics; and
- Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CTP).

The WREB offers optional sections in prosthodontic and periodontal, if required by the state in which a candidate is applying for initial licensure.

The operative section is performed on either a live patient or a simulation performed on a manikin. The candidate may complete up to two procedures to demonstrate competence on the Operative section.

Patient Operative:

- A Class II restoration – Composite or Amalgam; and
- If required:
 - Direct Class II Composite or Amalgam restoration; or
 - Direct Class III Composite restoration.

Simulation Operative: A Class II and Class III preparation and restoration procedure must be completed.³²

The endodontics section is completed on simulated teeth for both the patient-based and manikin formats. Candidates are required to place and maintain the manikin in correct patient treatment position and remain articulated in correct vertical dimension. Candidates have three hours to complete their treatment and postoperative radiographs. Candidates are required to perform the following endodontic procedures:

- Anterior – Graded on access and condensation; and
- Posterior – Graded on access only.

²⁸ Western Regional Examining Board, About Us, *States Accepting WREB*, available at <https://wreb.org/about-us/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021). Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. States that do not accept the WREB in come form are Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, South Carolina, and Vermont, plus DC and Puerto Rico.

²⁹ Id. Those state are Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

³⁰ Department of Health, *Senate Bill 1366 Fiscal Analysis* (Feb. 23, 2021) (on file with the Senate Committee on Health Policy).

³¹ Western Regional Examining Board, Dental Candidates, Policies and Procedures, 2021 Policies and Procedures, *2021 WREB Exam Procedures*, available at https://wreb.org/Candidates/Dental/2021_Dental_PDFs/2021_WREB_Exam_Procedures.pdf (last visited Mar. 19, 2021).

³² *Id.*

The comprehensive treatment planning (CTP) section of the WREB exam, for patient-based or manikin formats, is a computer-based written examination administered by Prometric Testing Centers. The exam consists of three patient cases of varying complexity, one of which is a pediatric patient. For each case, candidates assess patient history, photographs, radiographs, and clinical information. Candidates are required to create and submit a treatment plan and then answer questions or perform tasks related to each case. Candidates have three hours to complete the CTP exam.³³

Prosthodontics, another optional section, consists of the simulated preparation of two abutments, which are connecting pieces that join the prosthesis to the implants:

- One to support a posterior three-unit fixed partial denture prosthesis; and
- One of an anterior tooth for a full-coverage ceramic crown.

The prosthodontic preparations are completed in a single day and candidates are allotted three and one-half hours to complete the prosthodontic preparations.

The periodontal section, also optional, consists of Initial Phase Treatment (IPT), Scaling/Root Preparation, on a live patient or on a manikin. Candidates provide a patient for the IPT section and will perform scaling and root-planning on one or two quadrants of the patient's mouth. Only one quadrant is required, but two may be necessary if required criteria are not met. If additional teeth are needed to obtain the required calculus and/or pocket depths, two quadrants may be used.

Periodontics simulation is offered where the patient-based PTI section is not available and for candidates intending to be licensed in states not requiring completion of a periodontal procedure on a patient. The candidate will perform a thorough scaling and root-planning of all teeth in the assigned quadrant of a simulated dental arch.

The cost of taking the full WREB examination is \$2,550 plus ancillary fees.³⁴

Dental Hygiene Examinations

The American Dental Licensing Examination (ADHLEX)

The ADHLEX examination is used in Florida and administered by the CDCA and the CITA. The ADHLEX is designed for students about to complete dental hygiene training and graduate dental hygienists. Forty-seven states accept the ADHLEX examination; only Delaware, Georgia, and Nebraska do not.³⁵

The ADHLEX examination is based on specific performance criteria used to measure clinical competence. There are two skill-specific clinical and simulated clinical OSCE:

- The Computer Simulated Clinical Examination (CSCE-OSCE); and

³³ See note 31.

³⁴ Id.

³⁵ The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, 2021 ADEX Acceptance Maps, *Dental Hygiene*, available at <https://www.cdcaexams.org/ADEX-acceptance-map/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021).

- The Patient Treatment Clinical Examination (PTCE).³⁶

The CSCE-OSCE exam is designed to assess various levels of diagnosis and treatment planning knowledge, skills, and abilities. Clinically-based questions are utilized through computer-enhanced photographs, radiographs, optical images of study and working models, laboratory data, and other clinical digitized reproductions.³⁷

The PTCE evaluates candidates on their clinical and judgment skills. Clinical skills include:³⁸

- Detection and removal of calculus;
- Accurate periodontal pocket depth measurements;
- Tissue management; and
- Final case presentation.

Judgment skills include:

- Presenting an eligible patient;
- Diagnostic-quality radiographs meeting all examination criteria; and
- An acceptable case selection of teeth that meets all calculus requirements.

The non-patient version of this ADHLEX examination is called the Manikin Treatment Clinical Examination (MTCE).³⁹

The cost of taking the full ADHLEX exam, both patient and manikin based, is \$995.⁴⁰

The Western Regional Examining Board Examination – Dental Hygiene

The WREB dental hygiene examination is designed for students about to complete dental hygiene training and graduate dental hygienists. The WREB dental hygiene examination is fully accepted in 22 states.

The dental hygiene WREB exam is given in three formats:

- The Patient-based format;⁴¹

³⁶ The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, *Dental Hygiene (ADEX)*, available at <https://www.cdcaexams.org/dental-hygiene-ADEX-exam/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021).

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ See note 36.

³⁹ The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, *Dental Hygiene (ADEX)*, available at <https://www.cdcaexams.org/dental-hygiene-ADEX-exam/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2021).

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ Western Regional Examination Board, *2021 Dental Hygiene Manikin Clinical Examination Candidate Guide* available at https://wreb.org/Candidates/Hygiene/hygienePDFs/2021_DH_Forms/2021_WREB_HYG_Manikin_Candidate_Guide_v012_72021.pdf (last visited Mar. 19, 2021). The examination is two hours and consists of two sections: Assessment and Detection and Removable Calculus. The Assessment and Detection section is administered first. Each section is administered separately and must be completed within the allotted time. The Assessment and Detection section consists of Extra-oral and intra-oral test items in addition to accurately evaluating and recording the following oral conditions: Furcation classification; Periodontal probing depths; Gingival recession; and Sub-gingival calculus.

- The Manikin format;⁴² and
- The OSCE format.⁴³

The 2021 WREB dental hygiene examination consists of the following sections:

- *Local Anesthesia* is a two-part exam written and clinical. Passage of the written local anesthesia exam is required prior to attempting any of the clinical examinations.⁴⁴
 - *The written examination* is a multiple-choice exam administered by Prometric Testing Centers. In order to attempt the clinical exam, a candidate must successfully complete the written exam within the specified testing timeframe or both their clinical exam attempt and registration fees will be forfeit.
 - *The clinical examination* requires the administration of two nerve block injections⁴⁵. The patient-based format may include the administration of local anesthetics if certain criteria are met.⁴⁶
- *Dental Hygiene Patient-based and Manikin-Based Clinical Examination*: The dental hygiene patient-based or manikin-based clinical examination consists of an evaluation of a candidate's ability to utilize professional judgment and clinical competency in providing oral health care to a live patient, including:⁴⁷
 - Extra-oral and intra-oral evaluation;
 - Calculus detection and removal;
 - Tissue management – probing and recession;
 - Periodontal assessment;⁴⁸ and
 - Professional judgment.
- *Restoration Examination*: The dental hygiene restorative clinical examination consists of the placement, carving, and finishing of:
 - One amalgam;
 - One composite restoration; and
 - Preparation of:
 - One mesiocclusal (MO); and
 - One distocclusal (DO) maxillary and mandibular acidental molar preparation.

⁴² Western Regional Examination Board, *2021 Dental Hygiene Patient-based Clinical Examination Candidate Guide*, available at https://wreb.org/Candidates/Hygiene/hygienePDFs/2021_DH_Forms/2021_WREB_HYG_PT-based_Candidate_Guide_v12162020.pdf (last visited Mar. 19, 2021)

⁴³ Western Regional Examination Board, *2021 Dental Hygiene Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Candidate Guide*, p. 5, available at https://wreb.org/Candidates/Hygiene/hygienePDFs/2021_DH_Forms/2021_WREB_HYG_OSCE_Candidate_Guide_v12142020.pdf (last visited Mar. 19, 2021). The WREB dental hygiene OSCE is a two hour multiple-choice written examination that assesses the multi-faceted components of dental hygiene care. This is a comprehensive overview of dental hygiene knowledge that a clinician should possess to safely treat a Patient in a clinical setting. Multiple choice items are discipline based.

⁴⁴ Western Regional Examining Board, *2021 Local Anesthesia Examination Candidate Guide*, available at https://wreb.org/Candidates/Hygiene/hygienePDFs/2021_DH_Forms/2021_WREB_ANE_Candidate_Guide_v12172020.pdf (last visited Mar. 19, 2021).

⁴⁵ *Id.* The two required nerve blocks are the inferior alveolar (IA) and a posterior superior alveolar (PSA).

⁴⁶ See note 44.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ See note 44. Periodontal assessment includes assessment and recording of: periodontal pocket depth; gingival recession; type and Severity of radiographic bone loss; and classification of furcation involvement.

The WREB fees for taking the dental hygiene examinations are as follows:⁴⁹

- Local anesthesia, written: \$125
- Local anesthesia, clinical: \$270
- Dental hygiene patient-based or manikin-based clinical: \$1,175
- Dental hygiene OSCE: \$450
- Restorative: \$460

Florida Board of Dentistry

The Florida BOD considered and discussed the addition of the WREB examination, as provided in SB 1366, on February 19, 2021. The BOD unanimously voted against the WREB.⁵⁰

SB 1366 is almost identical to SB 1032 (2020). The BOD, on January 20, 2020, called a board meeting to specifically discuss and consider the bill and its effect of adding the WREB clinical examination as a licensure examination for both dentists and dental hygienists. Board members and members of the public, including a BOD clinical examiner of 13 years, and the Florida Dental Association, expressed the following concerns with adopting the WREB:

- There were scoring discrepancies with the WREB examinations, especially the dental exam, resulting in nine states no longer accepting the WREB examination;
- Only one state, Alaska, accepted only the WREB;
- Two portions of the WREB examinations were optional in areas that were required in Florida, which could result in:
 - Issues involving standards of care; and
 - A requirement to check all applicants' actual examinations to ensure all requirements had been met by each applicant;
- The WREB examinations seemed to be less rigorous with less requirements, creating possible public safety issues;
- The WREB creates additional burdens on the BOD without much benefit to the citizens of Florida;
- The WREB examinations were not an improvement on the ADLEX or the ADHLEX; and
- The WREB examinations were weaker examinations and accepting the WREB examinations Florida would be lowering the state's standards.

No one present at either meeting testified in favor of adopting the WREB examinations. The BOD unanimously voted to oppose SB 1032 (2020).⁵¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill:

⁴⁹ Western Regional Examination Board, *Dental Hygiene, Local Anesthesia, and Restorative Exam Fees*, available at <https://wreb.org/hygiene-candidates/2018-hygiene-exam-fees/> (last visited Mar. 21, 2021).

⁵⁰ See Board of Dentistry, General Business Meeting Minutes, Feb. 19, 2021, 7:30 a.m. EST (on file with the Senate Committee on Health Policy) audio available at <https://floridasdentistry.gov/meeting-information/past-meetings/> starting at 6:26:11 through 29:18 (last listened Mar. 21, 2021).

⁵¹ See Board of Dentistry, General Business Meeting Minutes, Jan. 24, 2020, 9:00 a.m. EST (on file with the Senate Committee on Health Policy) audio available at <https://floridasdentistry.gov/meeting-information/past-meetings/page/4/> (last listened Mar. 21, 2021).

- Amends the legislative intent in s. 466.006(1)(a) and (6)(a), F.S., to:
 - Provide that the Legislature intends for the state to use the dental clinical examination developed and administered by the WREB, in addition to the ADEX, to test applicants for licensure;
 - Find that the WREB examination meets accepted testing standards to adequately and reliably measure an applicant's ability to practice dentistry;
 - Find that there is an important state interest to improve access to dental care for underserved residents and to further economic development;
 - Find that allowing practicing dentists in other states or territories, who apply to practice in Florida based on out-of-state WREB examination scores, is substantially related to achieving these important state interests; and
 - Find that out-of-state applicants, receiving Florida dental licenses based on out-of-state WREB scores, and planning to relocate to Florida, must be required to actually engage in the full-time dental practice in Florida within one year of receiving licensure to meet those state goals; and that if they do not, access to dental care for the public will not increase.
- Amends s. 466.006(4)(b) F.S., to:
 - Add the WREB clinical dental examination as an additional legislatively approved clinical examination provided the BOD has attained, or maintains, representation on:
 - The board of directors of the WREB;
 - The WREB examination development committee; and
 - Any other committees of the WREB that the BOD deems appropriate;
 - Require the BOD to recognize as valid, for purposed of licensure, passing scores on the WREB practical examination taken in another jurisdiction after October 1, 2011;⁵² However, if more than 365 days have passed since the passing score was achieved, the applicant must demonstrate additional standards including demonstrating five consecutive years of full-time dental practice;⁵³
- Amends s. 466.006(5), F.S., to authorize the use of mannequins for the two required restorations and one required periodontal portion of the clinical examinations as approved by the BOD;
- Amends s. 466.007(4)(b) F.S., to:
 - Add the WREB clinical dental hygiene examination as an additional legislatively approved dental hygiene clinical examination provided the BOD has attained, or maintains, representation on:
 - The board of directors of the WREB;
 - The WREB dental hygiene examination review board; and
 - Any other dental hygiene committees of the WREB that the BOD deems appropriate;
 - Authorize the use of mannequins in the ADHLEX and the WREB dental hygiene clinical examinations as approved by the BOD;
- Amends s. 466.007(5)(a), F.S., to require that a passing score on the WREB dental hygiene examination that is administered out-of-state is considered the same as a passing score for the ADHLEX or the WREB dental hygiene examination administered in state.

⁵² Section 466.006(4)(b)1., F.S. This section may not be applied retroactively.

⁵³ Section 466.006(4)(b)2(e)(II), F.S. Full time practice is defined as a minimum of 1,200 hours per year for each year in the consecutive five-year period.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The DOH might experience non-recurring costs for:

- Rulemaking;
- Increase in workload and costs associated with updating the Licensing and Enforcement Information Database System (LEIDS) to record examination results received from the WREB dental examination; and
- A new web service to support receiving examination results from the WREB on candidates applying for licensure in Florida.

Current resources and budget authority are adequate to absorb these costs.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ See note 17.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Lines 53-55 contain text from current law indicating that the DOH will “purchase” from “ADEX and WREB” clinical examinations. The DOH does not purchase examinations from any testing agency. The applicants for licensure sign up with either the CDCA or the CITA to take the ADLEX or the ADHLEX. The agency then sends the scores to the BOD via DOH.

The proposed language in s. 466.006(1)(b), F.S., contains outdated language requiring the applicant to submit two recent photographs to the DOH. Historically, photographs were required when the DOH developed and administered examinations and photographs were used for identification purposes. These are no longer collected at the time of application.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 466.006 and 466.007.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.