

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

SenateHouse

.

Representative Steele offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 826-1516 and insert:

(17)~~(13)~~ "Remediable tasks" are those intraoral treatment tasks which are reversible and do not create unalterable changes within the oral cavity or the contiguous structures and which do not cause an increased risk to the patient.

(18)~~(16)~~ "School-based prevention program" means preventive oral health services offered at a school by one of the entities described ~~defined~~ in subsection (13) ~~(15)~~ or by a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

13 taxation under s. 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and
14 described in s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

15 **Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 466.004, Florida**
16 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

17 466.004 Board of Dentistry.—

18 (2) To advise the board, it is the intent of the
19 Legislature that councils be appointed as specified in
20 paragraphs (a)-(d) ~~(a), (b), and (c)~~. The department shall
21 provide administrative support to the councils and shall provide
22 public notice of meetings and agendas ~~agenda~~ of the councils.
23 Councils must ~~shall~~ include at least one board member, who shall
24 serve as chair, ~~the council~~ and must ~~shall~~ include nonboard
25 members. All council members shall be appointed by the board
26 chair. Council members shall be appointed for 4-year terms, and
27 all members are ~~shall be~~ eligible for reimbursement of expenses
28 in the manner of board members.

29 (a) A Council on Dental Hygiene shall be appointed by the
30 board chair and shall include one dental hygienist member of the
31 board, who shall chair the council, one dental member of the
32 board, and three dental hygienists who are actively engaged in
33 the practice of dental hygiene in this state. In making the
34 appointments, the chair shall consider recommendations from the
35 Florida Dental Hygiene Association. The council shall meet at
36 the request of the board chair, a majority of the members of the
37 board, or the council chair; however, the council must meet at

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

38 | least three times a year. The council is charged with the
39 | responsibility of and shall meet for the purpose of developing
40 | rules and policies for recommendation to the board, which the
41 | board shall consider, on matters pertaining to that part of
42 | dentistry consisting of educational, preventive, or therapeutic
43 | dental hygiene services; dental hygiene licensure, discipline,
44 | or regulation; and dental hygiene education. Rule and policy
45 | recommendations of the council must ~~shall~~ be considered by the
46 | board at its next regularly scheduled meeting in the same manner
47 | in which it considers rule and policy recommendations from
48 | designated subcommittees of the board. Any rule or policy
49 | proposed by the board pertaining to the specified part of
50 | dentistry identified ~~defined~~ by this subsection must ~~shall~~ be
51 | referred to the council for a recommendation before final action
52 | by the board. The board may take final action on rules
53 | pertaining to the specified part of dentistry identified ~~defined~~
54 | by this subsection without a council recommendation if the
55 | council fails to submit a recommendation in a timely fashion as
56 | prescribed by the board.

57 | (b) A Council on Dental Assisting shall be appointed by
58 | the board chair and shall include one board member who shall
59 | chair the council and three dental assistants who are actively
60 | engaged in dental assisting in this state. The council shall
61 | meet at the request of the board chair or a majority of the
62 | members of the board. The council shall meet for the purpose of

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

63 developing recommendations to the board on matters pertaining to
64 that part of dentistry related to dental assisting.

65 (c) Effective 28 months after the first dental therapy
66 license is granted by the board, the board chair shall appoint a
67 Council on Dental Therapy, which must include one board member
68 who shall chair the council and three dental therapists who are
69 actively engaged in the practice of dental therapy in this
70 state. The council shall meet at the request of the board chair,
71 a majority of the members of the board, or the council chair;
72 however, the council shall meet at least three times per year.
73 The council is charged with the responsibility of, and shall
74 meet for the purpose of, developing rules and policies for
75 recommendation to the board on matters pertaining to that part
76 of dentistry consisting of educational, preventive, or
77 therapeutic dental therapy services; dental therapy licensure,
78 discipline, or regulation; and dental therapy education. Rule
79 and policy recommendations of the council must be considered by
80 the board at its next regularly scheduled meeting in the same
81 manner in which it considers rule and policy recommendations
82 from designated subcommittees of the board. Any rule or policy
83 proposed by the board pertaining to the specified part of
84 dentistry identified by this subsection must be referred to the
85 council for a recommendation before final action by the board.
86 The board may take final action on rules pertaining to the
87 specified part of dentistry identified by this subsection

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

88 without a council recommendation if the council fails to submit
89 a recommendation in a timely fashion as prescribed by the board.

90 (d)-(e) With the concurrence of the State Surgeon General,
91 the board chair may create and abolish other advisory councils
92 relating to dental subjects, including, but not limited to:
93 examinations, access to dental care, indigent care, nursing home
94 and institutional care, public health, disciplinary guidelines,
95 and other subjects as appropriate. Such councils shall be
96 appointed by the board chair and shall include at least one
97 board member who shall serve as chair.

98 **Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section**
99 **466.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

100 466.006 Examination of dentists.—

101 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law in chapter
102 456 pertaining to the clinical dental licensure examination or
103 national examinations, to be licensed as a dentist in this
104 state, an applicant must successfully complete both of the
105 following:

106 (b) A practical or clinical examination, which must be the
107 American Dental Licensing Examination produced by the American
108 Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., or its successor entity, if
109 any, which is administered in this state, provided that the
110 board has attained, and continues to maintain thereafter,
111 representation on the board of directors of the American Board
112 of Dental Examiners, the examination development committee of

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

113 the American Board of Dental Examiners, and such other
114 committees of the American Board of Dental Examiners as the
115 board deems appropriate by rule to assure that the standards
116 established herein are maintained organizationally.

117 1. As an alternative to such practical or clinical
118 examination, an applicant may submit scores from an American
119 Dental Licensing Examination previously administered in a
120 jurisdiction other than this state after October 1, 2011, and
121 such examination results are recognized as valid for the purpose
122 of licensure in this state. A passing score on the American
123 Dental Licensing Examination administered out of state is the
124 same as the passing score for the American Dental Licensing
125 Examination administered in this state. The applicant must have
126 completed the examination after October 1, 2011. This
127 subparagraph may not be given retroactive application.

128 2. If the date of an applicant's passing American Dental
129 Licensing Examination scores from an examination previously
130 administered in a jurisdiction other than this state under
131 subparagraph 1. is older than 365 days, such scores are
132 nevertheless valid for the purpose of licensure in this state,
133 but only if the applicant demonstrates that all of the following
134 additional standards have been met:

135 a. The applicant completed the American Dental Licensing
136 Examination after October 1, 2011. This sub-subparagraph may not
137 be given retroactive application.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

b. The applicant graduated from a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor entity, if any, or any other dental accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education. Provided, however, if the applicant did not graduate from such a dental school, the applicant may submit proof of having successfully completed a full-time supplemental general dentistry program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation of at least 2 consecutive academic years at such accredited sponsoring institution. Such program must provide didactic and clinical education at the level of a D.D.S. or D.M.D. program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, a supplemental general dentistry program does not include an advanced education program in a dental specialty.

c. The applicant currently possesses a valid and active dental license in good standing, with no restriction, which has never been revoked, suspended, restricted, or otherwise disciplined, from another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

d. The applicant must disclose to the board during the application process if he or she has been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Healthcare Integrity and

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

Protection Data Bank, or the American Association of Dental Boards Clearinghouse. This sub-subparagraph does not apply if the applicant successfully appealed to have his or her name removed from the data banks of these agencies.

e.(I) (A) The applicant submits proof of having been consecutively engaged in the full-time practice of dentistry in another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of application for licensure in this state; or

(B) If the applicant has been licensed in another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for less than 5 years, the applicant submits proof of having been engaged in the full-time practice of dentistry since the date of his or her initial licensure.

(II) As used in this section, "full-time practice" is defined as a minimum of 1,200 hours per year for each year in the consecutive 5-year period or, when applicable, the period since initial licensure, and must include any combination of the following:

(A) Active clinical practice of dentistry providing direct patient care.

(B) Full-time practice as a faculty member employed by a dental, dental therapy, or dental hygiene school approved by the

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

board or accredited by the American Dental Association
Commission on Dental Accreditation.

(C) Full-time practice as a student at a postgraduate
dental education program approved by the board or accredited by
the American Dental Association Commission on Dental
Accreditation.

(III) The board shall develop rules to determine what type
of proof of full-time practice is required and to recoup the
cost to the board of verifying full-time practice under this
section. Such proof must, at a minimum, be:

(A) Admissible as evidence in an administrative
proceeding;

(B) Submitted in writing;

(C) Further documented by an applicant's annual income tax
return filed with the Internal Revenue Service for each year in
the preceding 5-year period or, if the applicant has been
practicing for less than 5 years, the period since initial
licensure; and

(D) Specifically found by the board to be both credible
and admissible.

(IV) The board may excuse applicants from the 1,200-hour
requirement in the event of hardship, as defined by the board.

f. The applicant submits documentation that he or she has
completed, or will complete before he or she is licensed in this

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

state, continuing education equivalent to this state's requirements for the last full reporting biennium.

g. The applicant proves that he or she has never been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession in any jurisdiction.

h. The applicant has successfully passed a written examination on the laws and rules of this state regulating the practice of dentistry and the computer-based diagnostic skills examination.

i. The applicant submits documentation that he or she has successfully completed the applicable examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations or its successor organization.

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 466.009, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

466.009 Reexamination.—

(1) Any person who fails an examination that is required under s. 466.006, ~~or~~ s. 466.007, or s. 466.0225 may retake the examination.

(4) If an applicant for a license to practice dental therapy fails the practical or clinical examination and she or he has failed only one part or procedure of such examination, she or he may be required to retake only that part or procedure

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

236 to pass such examination. However, if any such applicant fails
237 more than one part or procedure of any such examination, she or
238 he must be required to retake the entire examination.

239 **Section 16. Section 466.011, Florida Statutes, is amended**
240 **to read:**

241 466.011 Licensure.—The board shall certify for licensure
242 by the department any applicant who satisfies the requirements
243 of s. 466.006, s. 466.0067, ~~or~~ s. 466.007, or s. 466.0225. The
244 board may refuse to certify an applicant who has violated ~~any of~~
245 ~~the provisions of~~ s. 466.026 or s. 466.028.

246 **Section 17. Section 466.0136, Florida Statutes, is created**
247 **to read:**

248 466.0136 Continuing education; dental therapists.—In
249 addition to any other requirements for relicensure for dental
250 therapists specified in this chapter, the board shall require
251 each licensed dental therapist to complete at least 24 hours,
252 but not more than 36 hours, biennially of continuing education
253 in dental subjects in programs approved by the board or in
254 equivalent programs of continuing education. Programs of
255 continuing education approved by the board must be programs of
256 learning which, in the opinion of the board, contribute directly
257 to the dental education of the dental therapist. An individual
258 who is licensed as both a dental therapist and a dental
259 hygienist may use 2 hours of continuing education that is
260 approved for both dental therapy and dental hygiene education to

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

satisfy both dental therapy and dental hygiene continuing education requirements. The board shall adopt rules and guidelines to administer and enforce this section. The dental therapist shall retain in her or his records any receipts, vouchers, or certificates necessary to document completion of the continuing education. Compliance with the continuing education requirements is mandatory for issuance of the renewal certificate. The board may excuse licensees, as a group or as individuals, from all or part of the continuing education requirements if an unusual circumstance, emergency, or hardship prevents compliance with this section.

Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 466.016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

466.016 License to be displayed.—

(1) Every practitioner of dentistry, dental therapy, or dental hygiene within the meaning of this chapter shall post and keep conspicuously displayed her or his license in the office where ~~wherein~~ she or he practices, in plain sight of the practitioner's patients. Any dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist who practices at more than one location must display a copy of her or his license in each office where she or he practices.

Section 19. Section 466.017, Florida Statutes, is amended, to read:

466.017 Prescription of drugs; anesthesia.—

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

(1) A dentist shall have the right to prescribe drugs or medicine, subject to limitations imposed by law; perform surgical operations within the scope of her or his practice and training; administer general or local anesthesia or sedation, subject to limitations imposed by law; and use such appliances as may be necessary to the proper practice of dentistry.

(2) Pharmacists licensed pursuant to chapter 465 may fill prescriptions of legally licensed dentists in this state for any drugs necessary for the practice of dentistry.

(3) The board shall adopt rules which:

(a) Define general anesthesia.

(b) Specify which methods of general or local anesthesia or sedation, if any, are limited or prohibited for use by dentists.

(c) Establish minimal training, education, experience, or certification for a dentist to use general anesthesia or sedation, which rules may exclude, in the board's discretion, those dentists using general anesthesia or sedation in a competent and effective manner as of the effective date of the rules.

(d) Establish further requirements relating to the use of general anesthesia or sedation, including, but not limited to, office equipment and the training of dental assistants, dental therapists, or dental hygienists who work with dentists using general anesthesia or sedation.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

(e) Establish an administrative mechanism enabling the board to verify compliance with training, education, experience, equipment, or certification requirements of dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants adopted pursuant to this subsection. The board may charge a fee to defray the cost of verifying compliance with requirements adopted pursuant to this paragraph.

(4) A dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist who administers or employs the use of any form of anesthesia must possess a certification in either basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation for health professionals or advanced cardiac life support approved by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross or an equivalent agency-sponsored course with recertification every 2 years. Each dental office that ~~which~~ uses any form of anesthesia must have immediately available and in good working order such resuscitative equipment, oxygen, and other resuscitative drugs as are specified by rule of the board in order to manage possible adverse reactions.

(5) A dental hygienist under the direct supervision of a dentist may administer local anesthesia, including intraoral block anesthesia, soft tissue infiltration anesthesia, or both, to a nonsedated patient who is 18 years of age or older, if the following criteria are met:

(a) The dental hygienist has successfully completed a course in the administration of local anesthesia which is

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

336 offered by a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the
337 Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental
338 Association or approved by the board. The course must include a
339 minimum of 30 hours of didactic instruction and 30 hours of
340 clinical experience, and instruction in:

- 341 1. Theory of pain control.
- 342 2. Selection-of-pain-control modalities.
- 343 3. Anatomy.
- 344 4. Neurophysiology.
- 345 5. Pharmacology of local anesthetics.
- 346 6. Pharmacology of vasoconstrictors.
- 347 7. Psychological aspects of pain control.
- 348 8. Systematic complications.
- 349 9. Techniques of maxillary anesthesia.
- 350 10. Techniques of mandibular anesthesia.
- 351 11. Infection control.
- 352 12. Medical emergencies involving local anesthesia.

353 (b) The dental hygienist presents evidence of current
354 certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support.

355 (c) The dental hygienist possesses a valid certificate
356 issued under subsection (8) ~~(6)~~.

357 (6) A dental therapist, under the direct supervision of a
358 dentist may administer local anesthesia, including intraoral
359 block anesthesia, soft tissue infiltration anesthesia, or both,
360 if the following criteria are met:

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

361 (a) The dental therapist has successfully completed a
362 course in the administration of local anesthesia that meets the
363 requirements described in paragraph (5) (a).

364 (b) The dental therapist presents evidence of current
365 certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support.

366 (c) The dental therapist possesses a valid certificate
367 issued under subsection (8).

368 (7) A dental therapist providing services in a mobile
369 dental unit may administer local anesthesia, including intraoral
370 block anesthesia, soft tissue infiltration anesthesia, or both,
371 under the general supervision of a dentist, if she or he meets
372 the criteria described in subsection (6).

373 ~~(8)-(6)~~ Any dental therapist or dental hygienist seeking a
374 certificate to administer local anesthesia must apply to the
375 department, remit an application fee, and submit proof of
376 successful completion of a course in the administration of local
377 anesthesia pursuant to subsection (5). The board shall certify,
378 and the department shall issue a certificate to, any dental
379 therapist or dental hygienist who fulfills the qualifications of
380 subsection (5). The board shall establish a one-time application
381 fee not to exceed \$35. The certificate is not subject to renewal
382 but is part of the dental therapist's or dental hygienist's
383 permanent record and must be prominently displayed at the
384 location where the dental therapist or dental hygienist is
385 authorized to administer local anesthesia. The board shall adopt

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

rules necessary to administer subsections ~~subsection~~ (5), (6), and (7) and this subsection.

~~(9)-(7)~~ A licensed dentist, or a dental therapist who is authorized by her or his supervising dentist, may operate ~~utilize~~ an X-ray machine, expose dental X-ray films, and interpret or read such films. Notwithstanding ~~The provisions of~~ part IV of chapter 468 ~~to the contrary notwithstanding~~, a licensed dentist, or a dental therapist who is authorized by her or his supervising dentist, may authorize or direct a dental assistant to operate such equipment and expose such films under her or his direction and supervision, pursuant to rules adopted by the board in accordance with s. 466.024 which ensure that the ~~said~~ assistant is competent by reason of training and experience to operate the X-ray ~~said~~ equipment in a safe and efficient manner. The board may charge a fee not to exceed \$35 to defray the cost of verifying compliance with requirements adopted pursuant to this section.

~~(10)-(8)~~ Notwithstanding ~~The provisions of~~ s. 465.0276 ~~notwithstanding~~, a dentist need not register with the board or comply with the continuing education requirements of that section if the dentist confines her or his dispensing activity to the dispensing of fluorides and chlorhexidine ~~chlorhexidine~~ rinse solutions; provided that the dentist complies with and is subject to all laws and rules applicable to pharmacists and pharmacies, including, but not limited to, chapters 465, 499,

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

411 and 893, and all applicable federal laws and regulations, when
412 dispensing such products.

413 (11)~~(9)~~ Any adverse incident that occurs in an office
414 maintained by a dentist must be reported to the department. The
415 required notification to the department must be submitted in
416 writing by certified mail and postmarked within 48 hours after
417 the incident occurs.

418 (12)~~(10)~~ A dentist practicing in this state must notify
419 the board in writing by certified mail within 48 hours after any
420 adverse incident that occurs in the dentist's outpatient
421 facility. A complete written report must be filed with the board
422 within 30 days after the incident occurs.

423 (13)~~(11)~~ Any certified registered dental hygienist
424 administering local anesthesia must notify the board in writing
425 by registered mail within 48 hours after any adverse incident
426 that was related to or the result of the administration of local
427 anesthesia. A complete written report must be filed with the
428 board within 30 days after the mortality or other adverse
429 incident.

430 (14) A dental therapist must notify the board in writing
431 by registered mail within 48 hours after any adverse incident
432 related to or resulting from the administration of local
433 anesthesia. A complete written report must be filed with the
434 board within 30 days after the mortality or other adverse
435 incident.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

436 ~~(15)(12)~~ A failure by the dentist, dental therapist, or
437 dental hygienist to timely and completely comply with all the
438 reporting requirements in this section is the basis for
439 disciplinary action by the board pursuant to s. 466.028(1).

440 ~~(16)(13)~~ The department shall review each adverse incident
441 and determine whether it involved conduct by a health care
442 professional subject to disciplinary action, in which case s.
443 456.073 applies. Disciplinary action, if any, shall be taken by
444 the board under which the health care professional is licensed.

445 ~~(17)(14)~~ As used in subsections (11)-(16) ~~(9)-(13)~~, the
446 term "adverse incident" means any mortality that occurs during
447 or as the result of a dental procedure, or an incident that
448 results in a temporary or permanent physical or mental injury
449 that requires hospitalization or emergency room treatment of a
450 dental patient which occurs during or as a direct result of the
451 use of general anesthesia, deep sedation, moderate sedation,
452 pediatric moderate sedation, oral sedation, minimal sedation
453 (anxiolysis), nitrous oxide, or local anesthesia.

454 ~~(18)(15)~~ The board may adopt rules to administer this
455 section.

456 **Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 466.018, Florida**
457 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

458 466.018 Dentist of record; patient records.—

459 (1) Each patient must ~~shall~~ have a dentist of record. The
460 dentist of record shall remain primarily responsible for all

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

461 dental treatment on such patient regardless of whether the
462 treatment is rendered by that ~~the~~ dentist or by another dentist,
463 a dental therapist, a dental hygienist, or a dental assistant
464 rendering such treatment in conjunction with, at the direction
465 or request of, or under the supervision of such dentist of
466 record. The dentist of record must ~~shall~~ be identified in the
467 record of the patient. If treatment is rendered by a dentist
468 other than the dentist of record or by a dental hygienist,
469 dental therapist, or dental assistant, the name or initials of
470 such person must ~~shall~~ be placed in the record of the patient.
471 In any disciplinary proceeding brought pursuant to this chapter
472 or chapter 456, it must ~~shall~~ be presumed as a matter of law
473 that treatment was rendered by the dentist of record unless
474 otherwise noted on the patient record pursuant to this section.
475 The dentist of record and any other treating dentist are subject
476 to discipline pursuant to this chapter or chapter 456 for
477 treatment rendered to the patient and performed in violation of
478 such chapter. One of the purposes of this section is to ensure
479 that the responsibility for each patient is assigned to one
480 dentist in a multidentist practice of any nature and to assign
481 primary responsibility to the dentist for treatment rendered by
482 a dental hygienist, dental therapist, or dental assistant under
483 her or his supervision. This section may ~~shall~~ not be construed
484 to assign any responsibility to a dentist of record for
485 treatment rendered pursuant to a proper referral to another

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

dentist who does not ~~in~~ practice with the dentist of record or to prohibit a patient from voluntarily selecting a new dentist without permission of the dentist of record.

Section 21. Section 466.0225, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

466.0225 Examination of dental therapists; licensing.—

(1)(a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a dental therapist must apply to the department.

(b) Applicants for licensure must also submit to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

(2) The department shall issue a license to an applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

(a) Is 18 years of age or older.

(b) Is a graduate of a dental therapy college or school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor entity, if any, or any other dental therapy accrediting entity recognized by the United States Department of Education. For applicants applying for a dental therapy license before January 1, 2030, the board must approve the applicant's dental therapy education program if the program was administered by a college or school that operates an accredited dental or dental hygiene program and the college or school certifies to the board that the applicant's education substantially conformed to the education standards established

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

510 by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental
511 Accreditation or its successor entity.

512 (c) Has successfully completed a dental therapy practical
513 or clinical examination produced by the American Board of Dental
514 Examiners, Inc., or its successor entity, if any, if the board
515 finds that the successor entity's examination meets or exceeds
516 the requirements of this section. If an applicant fails to pass
517 such an examination in three attempts, the applicant is not
518 eligible to retake the examination unless the applicant
519 completes additional education requirements as specified by the
520 board.

521 (d) Has successfully completed a written examination on
522 the laws and rules of this state regulating the practice of
523 dental therapy.

524 (e) Has not been disciplined by a board, except for
525 citation offenses or minor violations.

526 (f) Has not been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to,
527 regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to
528 the practice of a health care profession.

529 (3) An applicant who meets the requirements of this
530 section and who has successfully completed an examination
531 identified in paragraph (2)(c) in a jurisdiction other than this
532 state, or who has successfully completed a comparable
533 examination administered or approved by the licensing authority
534 in a jurisdiction other than this state, shall be licensed to

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

practice dental therapy in this state if the board determines
that the other jurisdiction's examination is substantially
similar to those identified in paragraph (2)(c).

Section 22. Section 466.0227, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

466.0227 Dental therapists; scope and area of practice.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a dental
therapist may perform the dental therapy services specified in
subsection (2) under the general supervision of a dentist if
providing services in a mobile dental unit and under direct
supervision of a dentist in all other service scenarios to the
extent authorized by the supervising dentist and provided within
the terms of a written collaborative management agreement signed
by the dental therapist and the supervising dentist which meets
the requirements of subsection (3).

(2) The scope of practice of a dental therapist, subject
to the terms of a written collaborative management agreement,
includes all of the following:

(a) Oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease and
formulation of an individualized treatment plan.

(b) Identification of oral and systemic conditions
requiring evaluation or treatment by dentists, physicians, or
other health care providers and managing referrals.

(c) Comprehensive charting of the oral cavity.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

559 (d) Oral health instruction and disease prevention
560 education, including, but not limited to, nutritional counseling
561 and dietary analysis.

562 (e) Exposure and evaluation of radiographic images.

563 (f) Dental prophylaxis, including, but not limited to,
564 subgingival scaling and polishing procedures.

565 (g) Dispensing and administration via the oral or topical
566 route of nonnarcotic analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and
567 antibiotic medications as prescribed by a licensed health care
568 provider.

569 (h) Application of topical preventive or prophylactic
570 agents, including, but not limited to, fluoride varnish,
571 antimicrobial agents, caries arresting medicaments, and pit and
572 fissure sealants.

573 (i) Pulp vitality testing.

574 (j) Application of desensitizing medications or resins.

575 (k) Fabrication of athletic mouth guards and soft occlusal
576 guards.

577 (l) Changing of periodontal dressings.

578 (m) Administration of local anesthetic and nitrous oxide.

579 (n) Simple extraction of erupted primary teeth.

580 (o) Nonsurgical extraction of periodontally diseased
581 permanent teeth with tooth mobility of +3 to +4 to the extent
582 authorized in the dental therapist's collaborative management
583 agreement, except for the extraction of a tooth that is

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

584 unerupted, impacted, or fractured or that needs to be sectioned
585 for removal.

586 (p) Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain limited
587 to the procedures in this subsection.

588 (q) Preparation and placement of direct restoration in
589 primary and permanent teeth.

590 (r) Fabrication and placement of single-tooth temporary
591 crowns.

592 (s) Preparation and placement of preformed crowns on
593 primary teeth.

594 (t) Indirect and direct pulp capping on permanent teeth.

595 (u) Indirect pulp capping on primary teeth.

596 (v) Intraoral suture placement and removal.

597 (w) Minor adjustment and repair of removable prostheses.

598 (x) Placement and removal of space maintainers.

599 (y) Pulpotomy on primary teeth.

600 (z) Tooth reimplantation and stabilization.

601 (aa) Recementing of a permanent crown.

602 (bb) Additional services, treatments, or procedures as the
603 board deems appropriate by rule.

604 (3) Before performing any of the services authorized in
605 subsection (2), a dental therapist must enter into a written
606 collaborative management agreement with a supervising dentist.

607 The agreement must be signed by the dental therapist and the

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

608 supervising dentist and must include all of the following
609 information:

610 (a) Practice settings where services may be provided by
611 the dental therapist and the populations to be served by the
612 dental therapist.

613 (b) Any limitations on the services that may be provided
614 by the dental therapist, including the level of supervision
615 required by the supervising dentist. This may include
616 telehealth.

617 (c) Age-specific and procedure-specific practice protocols
618 for the dental therapist, including case selection criteria,
619 assessment guidelines, and imaging frequency.

620 (d) A procedure for creating and maintaining dental
621 records for the patients who are treated by the dental
622 therapist.

623 (e) A plan to manage medical emergencies in each practice
624 setting where the dental therapist provides care.

625 (f) A quality assurance plan for monitoring care provided
626 by the dental therapist, including patient care review, referral
627 follow-up, and a quality assurance chart review.

628 (g) Protocols for the dental therapist to administer and
629 dispense medications, including the specific conditions and
630 circumstances under which the medications are to be dispensed
631 and administered.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

632 (h) Criteria relating to the provision of care by the
633 dental therapist to patients with specific medical conditions or
634 complex medication histories, including requirements for
635 consultation before the initiation of care.

636 (i) Supervision criteria of dental therapists.

637 (j) A plan for the provision of clinical resources and
638 referrals in situations that are beyond the capabilities of the
639 dental therapist.

640 (4) A supervising dentist shall determine the number of
641 hours of practice that a dental therapist must complete under
642 direct or indirect supervision of the supervising dentist before
643 the dental therapist may perform any of the services authorized
644 in subsection (2) under general or direct supervision.

645 (5) A supervising dentist may restrict or limit the dental
646 therapist's practice in the written collaborative management
647 agreement to be less than the full scope of practice for dental
648 therapists which is authorized in subsection (2).

649 (6) A supervising dentist may authorize a dental therapist
650 to provide dental therapy services to a patient before the
651 supervising dentist examines or diagnoses the patient if the
652 authority, conditions, and protocols are established in a
653 written collaborative management agreement and if the patient is
654 subsequently referred to a dentist for any needed additional
655 services that exceed the dental therapist's scope of practice or
656 authorization under the collaborative management agreement.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

(7) A supervising dentist must be licensed and practicing in this state. The supervising dentist is responsible for all services authorized and performed by the dental therapist pursuant to the collaborative management agreement and for providing or arranging follow-up services to be provided by a dentist for any additional services that exceed the dental therapist's scope of practice or authorization under the collaborative management agreement.

Section 23. Subsections (8) and (9) are added to section 466.023, Florida Statutes, to read:

466.023 Dental hygienists; scope and area of practice.—

(8) A dental hygienist, under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, may use a dental diode laser for the purpose of bacterial reduction or disinfection of gingival sulcus at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal except for incidental gingival curettage, in a manner consistent with the dental hygienist's scope of practice, if the following criteria are met:

(a) The dental hygienist has obtained certification for the completion of an interactive didactic and clinical training course that includes laser safety, infection control, patient management, and the operation of specific lasers used in dental practice. The course must consist of a minimum of 12 hours of in-person instruction, including 3 hours of clinical simulation training, and must be obtained through a course provided or

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

682 recognized by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
683 American Dental Association or an organization approved by the
684 board.

685 (b) The dental hygienist maintains evidence of obtaining
686 the required certification which is prominently displayed at the
687 location where the dental hygienist is authorized to use a
688 dental diode laser.

689 (c) The dental hygienist completes 2 hours of continuing
690 education every 2 years on the use of dental diode lasers in the
691 practice of dental hygiene.

692 (d) The dental hygienist provides evidence of completion
693 of the required certification and continuing education to the
694 board.

695 (e) The supervising dentist has received a minimum of 12
696 hours of education and training on the use of lasers in a dental
697 setting.

698 (f) All lasers are used in accordance with accepted safety
699 guidelines.

700 (9) When using a dental diode laser pursuant to this
701 section, a dental hygienist shall document all of the following
702 information in the patient's record:

703 (a) The type of laser used, including the wavelength of
704 the laser.

705 (b) The settings used, such as pulse or continuous wave,
706 and the power setting.

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM

Amendment No.

707 (c) Whether local anesthesia was used.

708 (d) The procedure attempted and performed, including
709 details as to whether hard or soft tissue was removed.

710 -----
711 -----
712 -----

713 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

714 Remove lines 110-113 and insert:

715 authorizing dental hygienists to use a dental diode
716 laser for specified purposes under certain
717 circumstances; providing requirements for the use of
718 such laser by dental hygienists; amending s. 466.026,

584287

Approved For Filing: 4/23/2025 2:46:32 PM