

HCS SS SS SCS SB 1122 -- DENTISTRY

SPONSOR: Shields (Behnen)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the practice of dentistry and the powers of the Missouri State Dental Board. The substitute:

- (1) Gives the board authority to issue and enforce subpoenas;
- (2) Allows the board to investigate any person licensed to practice dentistry or any entity permitted to provide dental services in the state;
- (3) Expands the practice of dentistry to include persons attempting to control or influence a dentist's independent professional judgment regarding diagnosis and treatment. Exemptions are provided for certain licensed health care professionals;
- (4) Allows dental hygienist students and certain persons practicing dentistry in federally qualified health and homeless centers to provide services without a license;
- (5) Allows certain not-for-profit corporations to provide dental services if the corporation employs persons licensed in this state and serves certain low-income populations;
- (6) Lists the not-for-profit organizations and corporations which are exempted from the income restrictions;
- (7) Requires not-for-profit corporations to obtain a permit from the board. Not-for-profit corporations will be subject to discipline in the same manner as any other licensee of the board;
- (8) Exempts Federally Qualified Health Centers from the permit process but requires them to register with the board. The registration is not subject to discipline, but licensees are subject to discipline by the board for actions taken while working at the centers; and
- (9) Makes it a cause for discipline when a licensed physical therapist practices independent of the prescription and direction of a physician, dentist, or podiatrist licensed in another state.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it is very important for children to receive dental care. There is a large number of children in this state on Medicaid, and most dentists don't accept Medicaid patients. The bill allows not-for-profit corporations to employ dentists and dental hygienists without being burdened with the restrictions placed on them by the Missouri State Dental Board.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Shields; Missouri Dental Association; Missouri State Dental Board; Missouri Primary Care Association; Truman Medical Center; Missouri Hospital Association; Missouri Association of Health Plans; and Delta Dental Plan of Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say county health departments should be included with the exemptions.

Others testifying on the bill was Missouri Association of Public Health Departments.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst