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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 489—COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND LABOR

APRIL 1, 2003

Amendment to Assembly Bill No. 489

Amend section 6, lines 33-34 by deleting "*hygiene professional*" and inserting:

Sec. 6. NRS 631.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

631.040 "Dental hygienist" means any person who practices *the profession of dental hygiene*[-] *and is licensed pursuant to this chapter.*

Rationale: The term of dental hygiene professional would create a new credential that would have a dramatic financial impact and undue burden on the board and the dental hygiene profession.

Amend AB 489, by striking the word "hygiene professional" throughout.

Rationale: To return to the use of the term dental hygienist throughout the practice act.

Amend section 2, page 1-11, by inserting:

(c) *Has actively practiced dental hygiene pursuant to the laws of*

Rationale: For the protection of the public, a person obtaining a temporary license pursuant to this section needs to be currently practicing the profession of dental hygiene where an active license requires current continuing education of the profession. The definition of active, of which actively is an adverb, means present operation, transaction, movement, or use. An active license and current employment in the profession would provide the public greater assurance that the individual is practicing to current standards.

Amend section 3, line 2-29 through 3-2 by deleting:

Sec. 3. 1. ~~The [Advisory] Committee on Dental Hygiene [consisting of four members,] is hereby created.~~

2. ~~The [Advisory] Committee consists of:~~

(a) ~~The [three] members of the Board who are dental hygienists ; and~~

(b) ~~One dentist who is a member of the Board and who has supervised a dental hygienist for at least 3 years immediately~~

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SUBMITTED BY: SHARI PETERSON

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preceding his appointment to the [Advisory] Committee by the Board.

3. The [Advisory] Committee:

(a) [May provide advice] Shall have the authority to accept, review and make recommendations to the Board concerning:

(1) The practice of dental hygiene; and

(2) The licensing of dental hygienists, including, without limitation, requirements relating to the education, examination and discipline of dental hygienists.

(b) Shall carry out any duties the Board may assign to the [Advisory] Committee.

Rationale: Elimination of the word advisory is more favorable with the intent discussed in the negotiations. Section 3 (a) describes the nature of the committee that reflects the committee authority and parameters that were discussed at length by both parties. This portion of the bill is to be representative of the board recognizing the expertise of the committee members. The amended composition of the committee would allow for flexibility if there were any future changes in number of dental hygiene board members.

Amend section 4 by deleting lines 3-3 through 3-6, and inserting:

~~**Sec. 4. A dentist who provides a written or oral authorization to a dental hygiene professional for the provision of services by that dental hygiene professional is not required to be present when those services are provided.**~~

Chapter 631 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the definitions of:

(a) "Authorization by a dentist" defined. "Authorization by a dentist" means that a dentist provides written or oral authorization for a dental hygienist to provide services, but is not required to be present when those services are provided by the dental hygienist.

(b) "Assessment" defined. "Assessment" means the collection, analysis and organization of patient data conducted via surveys, existing data or oral screening to identify patient needs and oral health problems and facilitate comprehensive dental hygiene care planning.

(c) "Dental hygiene care planning" defined. "Dental hygiene care planning" means a conclusion based on assessment data that focuses on those needs that can be fulfilled through dental hygiene care and the establishment of realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health.

(d) "Implementation" defined. "Implementation" means the provision of dental hygiene treatment as identified in the assessment and planning phase.

(e) "Evaluation" defined. "Evaluation" means the measurement of

the extent to which goals identified in the treatment plan were achieved via indices, reevaluation of oral and periodontal health status, subsequent dental hygiene treatment needs, continuing care, referral and patient satisfaction.

Rationale: These terms need to be identified as definitions and placed in the practice act under definitions to add clarity to the dental hygiene profession. These definitions describe the dental hygiene process of care that provides accountability for the terms used in the definition of dental hygienist. The definition of a dental hygienist was clarified to recognize those methods that are inherent processes that all patients are entitled to. Duties delegable or procedures provided to a patient are based on each patient's needs and are determined by the board and listed in the Administrative Code. As dental hygienists are able to provide greater access to care within the dental practice act, they should be accountable for practicing these processes to appropriate standards of care. The use of these terms and subsequent definitions will protect the public and enable the Board to establish protocols of care in authorized and unsupervised practice of dental hygiene. These terms were derived from the American Dental Association Commission of Dental Accreditation, Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs, and modified by the Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association, accepted and supported by the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners per the negotiations.

Amend section 5 by deleting lines 3-12 through 3-31 and inserting the following:

Sec. 5. NRS 631.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

631.030 "Dental hygiene" means ~~{the}~~:

- ~~(a) The performance of assessment, dental hygiene care planning, implementation and evaluation of patients, and;~~
- ~~(a) b) The performance of educational, preventive and therapeutic periodontal treatment including scaling, curettage and planing of roots and any related and required intraoral or extraoral procedures that a dentist is authorized to assign to a dental hygienist [he employs].~~
- ~~(b) The collection, analysis and organization of data concerning patients, including, without limitation, data that is obtained through surveys and oral screening, to identify oral health problems and the oral health needs of patients, and to facilitate the establishment of plans pursuant to paragraph (c);~~
- ~~(c) The establishment of plans that are designed to address the oral health needs of patients, which include realistic goals and strategies for treating patients, and that are based on the collection, analysis and organization of data concerning patients;~~
- ~~(d) The evaluation of the effectiveness of plans established pursuant to paragraph (c), including, without limitation, evaluations based on information obtained through reevaluations of the oral health status of patients, the subsequent oral health needs of patients, the provision of continuing care to patients and~~

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~~surveys of patient satisfaction including, without limitation,
whether patients refer the oral health services to other persons;
and [any]~~

~~(e) Any related and required intraoral or extraoral procedures
that a dentist is authorized to assign to a dental [hygienist he
employs.] hygiene professional.~~

Rationale: The amended definition is more succinct by referring to the terms that are further defined in the preceding section of the bill. The amendment keeps in tact the original wording of dental hygiene but also delineates the dental hygiene process of care that may be practiced in unsupervised practice as well as in the employ of a dentist.