



# HOUSE BILL 286: Dental Hygienists/Intraoral Local Anesthetics

2015-2016 General Assembly

**Committee:** House Health  
**Introduced by:** Rep. Jones  
**Analysis of:** Second Edition

**Date:** March 27, 2015  
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Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *House bill 286 would authorize the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners to certify properly trained dental hygienist to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics under the direct supervision of a dentist. The bill further outlines the educational requirements dental hygienists must possess in order to apply for this certification.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 90-20(b) specifies that the practice of dentistry includes the administration of "anesthetics of any kind in the treatment of dental or oral diseases or physical conditions, or in preparation for or incident to any operation within the oral cavity" and specifically does not include lawfully qualified nurse anesthetists under the supervision and direction of a licensed dentist or physician. Currently, dental hygienists are not able to administer any anesthetic.

**BACKGROUND:** 45 states, including the District of Columbia, allow for local anesthesia administration by dental hygienists.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1** of the bill amends G.S. 90-20(b) to also exclude a lawfully certified dental hygienist, under the direction supervision of a dentist licensed in this State, who administers intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques from the statutes regulating the practice of dentistry.

**Section 2** of the bill amends G.S.90-221 to include within the performance of dental hygiene the administration of local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, only for dental hygienists who have completed additional training and who are certified by the NC State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) to perform this function.

**Section 3** includes technical changes.

**Section 4** creates a new subsection to G.S.90-233 – the statute that regulates the practice of dental hygiene. This amendment allows for a dental hygienist who has completed a program approved by the Board and who has been certified by the Board to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in the state of North Carolina.

**Section 5** creates a new section 90-233.5 which directs the NC State Board of Dental Examiners to certify a licensed dental hygienist who has completed the required training program approved by the Board to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques.

**Section 6** creates a new section 90-233.6. This new section authorizes the Board to approve any program that qualifies dental hygienists to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques. The Board has authority over the approval of the content, the length of training and the nature of a subsequent preceptorship. However, the section states the Board will not approve any certification program that does not, at a minimum, require all of the following:

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- Instruction using lecture and laboratory or clinical formats at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry, the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, or both.
- Instruction by a dentist who has a DDS or DMD degree from a program of dentistry in a school or college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and approved by the Board.
- A faculty to student ratio of no greater than 1:4 for lab or clinical instruction.
- Instruction to enable attainment of a minimum level of competence and upon successful attainment, issuance of a certificate of completion.
- A minimum of a three-day session on intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration that includes: 14 lecture hours on pharmacology, physiology, equipment, and technique; 3 lecture hours on medical emergencies; 2 hour lab or clinicals; and 3 one-hour evaluations of the student's competence.
- Within 12 months of a successful completion of the training program, completion of a 6 month preceptorship that includes a minimum of 750 hours performing the administration of intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques under the direction supervision of a licensed dentist. The preceptorship must include a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the hygienist and require the preceptor dentist to execute a certificate of qualification upon successful completed of the preceptorship.

If a dental hygienist was qualified to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by in another state, country, or territory and the educational, training, and qualification requirements for doing so in the other jurisdiction were substantially similar to those required by the Board, the Board may approve an application by a dental hygienist licensed in this State to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques. If the educational, training, and qualification requirements for doing so in the other jurisdiction were **not** substantially similar to those required by the Board, the Board may require the licensed dental hygienist to complete all or parts of the Board's requirements in order to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics in this State.

Dental hygienists will be required to annually submit to the Board evidence of continuing competence to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques. Such evidence will include annual CPR certification and at least 2 hours of Board-approved continuing education related to the administration of intraoral local dental anesthetics.

**Section 7** authorizes the Board to adopt rules to implement these new provisions.

**Section 8** and **Section 9** contain technical changes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act becomes effective January 1, 2016.