



# SENATE BILL 382: Dental Practice Act Changes.

2023-2024 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Perry, Corbin, Johnson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jason Moran-Bates
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition S382-CSBC-24		Committee Staff

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 382 would make various changes to the licensure and disciplinary process for dentists.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 382 would make the following changes to the Dental Practice Act in Chapter 90:

Individuals seeking licensure as dental instructors would need to be affiliated with an accredited dental school for at least three years before getting licensed. The three-year requirement would be waived if the individuals only performed research at the dental school.

The Board of Dental Examiners (Board) would be able to allow individuals seeking licensure as dentists to prove their clinical skills on manikins, in addition to human subjects.

Dental students at out-of-state schools would be permitted to practice as interns or externs after providing proof to the Board that they had an agreement with a supervising dentist and permission form the dean of their dental school. Dental students would also be permitted to practice at long-term care facilities, group care home programs, State-operated facilities with resident populations, hospitals, State or county health departments, Area Health Education Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other nonprofit healthcare organizations.

The process for receiving a license by credentials would be amended. Currently, the Board must issue a license by credentials to individuals who either hold an instructor's license or have advanced dental degrees, provided they met all other licensing requirements. The bill would change this so that the Board may issue a license by credentials to individuals who had instructors' licenses for the two years immediately before seeking licensure by credentials and who have also been engaged in the teaching and practice of dentistry for at least 2,000 hours. The Board may also grant a license by credentials to individuals who have advanced dental degrees. In both situations, the individuals must also meet all other licensing requirements.

Dentists who practice in multiple offices would be required to display their dental license in their main office and their current renewal certificates in all other offices.

The Board would be able to discipline dentists and dental hygienists who were unable to safely practice dentistry due to illness, substance abuse, or physical or mental abnormality. The Board would be able to require licensees and applicants to submit to medical exams as necessary.

Dentists would no longer be required to connect to the Health Information Exchange.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would become effective October 1, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



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Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578