



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 538**

Hearing Date: January 31, 2007
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Schimek)
Title: Change authorized functions for dental hygienists

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - X Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 5 | Yes | Senators Johnson, Erdman, Gay, Pankonin, Stuthman |
| 2 | No | Senators Hansen, Howard |
| | Present, not voting | |
| | Absent | |
-

Proponents:

Senator Schimek
James M. Broekemeier
Teena Beehner
Cynthia Carlson

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Dental Hygienists Association
NDHA
Nebraska Dental Hygiene Association

Opponents:

Jeremy Murphy

Representing:

Nebraska Catholic Conference

Neutral:

Joann Schaefer

Representing:

Health and Human Services System

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 538 is a reintroduction, in part, of LB 182 (2005). LB 538 revises and expands the scope of practice of dental hygienists. The bill permits dental hygienists, in a public health setting or a health care facility, to perform all of the dental hygiene functions listed in section 71-193.17. Public health setting and health care facility are defined.

In such settings, in performing such activities, a dental hygienist is required to (1) provide a copy of a report of treatment and show proof of professional liability coverage to the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure and (2) advise the patient and legal guardian that the services are preventive in nature and do not constitute a comprehensive dental diagnosis and care.

The bill revises and expands the scope of practice for dental hygienists in section 71-193.17. The bill permits licensed dental hygienists to perform the following intra and extra oral procedures:

- (1) “oral prophylaxis, periodontal scaling, and root planing which includes supragingival and subgingival debridement”;
- (2) “polish all exposed tooth surfaces, including restorations”;
- (3) “conduct and assess preliminary charting and screening examinations and indexing of dental and periodontal diseases”;
- (4) “brush biopsies”;
- (5) “pulp vitality testing”;
- (6) “apply topical and subgingival agents”;
- (7) provide oral health education, including conducting workshops and inservice training sessions on dental health”; and
- (8) “apply or dispense antimicrobial rinses, fluorides, and other anticariogenic agents and, in the case of a patient of record with a previous prescription for an antimicrobial rinse, fluoride, or other anticariogenic agent, authorize a refill of such prescription.”

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson