

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB330

Hearing Date: Friday March 04, 2011
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Cook
One Liner: Change requirements for dental hygienists in public health-related settings

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 5 Senators Cook, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Lambert
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 2 Senators Bloomfield, Campbell

Proponents:

Senator Tanya Cook
Roxanne Denny-Mickey

Gwen Hlava
Annette Byman
Jane Ford Witthoff
Brendon Polt

Representing:

District #13
Nebraska Dental Hygienists Association; Young Children-Priority One
Nebraska Dental Hygienists Association
Nebraska Dental Hygienists Association
Public Health Solutions District Health Department
Nebraska Health Care Association

Opponents:

Neutral:

David O'Doherty
Scott Morrison

Representing:

Representing:
Nebraska Dental Association
Nebraska Dental Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 330 removes the requirement of three thousand hours of clinical experience in at least four of the preceding five calendar years to perform certain preventive dental services on children. The bill removes the clinical experience and changes "children" to "patient." As a result of these changes, the bill provides that dental hygienists may be authorized to perform public health-related services in a public health setting or in a health care or related facility. These services include oral prophylaxis to healthy patients who do not require antibiotic premedication; pulp vitality testing; and preventive measures, including the application of fluorides, sealants, and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease.

Explanation of amendments:

Current law requires three thousand hours of clinical experience in at least four of the preceding five calendar years to provide oral prophylaxis to healthy children in public health settings. The Committee Amendment changes this requirement to allow dental hygienist to treat children with the clinical experience gained in their original education.

The Committee amendment changes current practice to allow dental hygienists to serve adults if they have completed

three thousand hours of clinical experience. The treatment is limited to a public health setting and limited to include oral prophylaxis; pulp vitality testing; and preventive measures, including the application of fluoride, sealants, and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease.

The department will provide authorization for dental hygienist to treat adults according to these guidelines with an application, evidence of licensure, liability insurance, and clinical experience. The activities under this bill will be reported to the department and the dental hygienist will advise the recipient of the services that the services are preventative and do not constitute a comprehensive dental diagnosis and care.

Finally, the Committee Amendment requires the department to compile data from the reports and provide an annual report to the Board of Dentistry and the State Board of Health. In five years the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall evaluate the services provided by dental hygienists regarding the effectiveness of the delivery of oral health care and report the results of the evaluation to the Legislature.

Public health setting continues to mean a federal, state or local public health department or clinic, community health center, rural health clinic, or other similar program or agency that serves primarily public health care program recipients.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson