

HOUSE BILL 2775

By Hill

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108, relative to the practice of dentistry.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(c)(3), is amended by deleting the language "No person" at the beginning of the subdivision and by substituting instead the following:

Unless a licensed dental hygienist is practicing according to a written collaborative agreement with a dentist in accordance with § 63-5-108(c)(6), no person

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(c)(5), is amended by deleting the language "Under general supervision" at the beginning of the subdivision and by substituting instead the following:

Unless a licensed dental hygienist is practicing according to a written collaborative agreement with a dentist in accordance with § 63-5-108(c)(6), under general supervision

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(c), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision (6):

(6) A dental hygienist who has a collaborative practice agreement with a dentist may provide to patients all other dental hygiene services not otherwise limited to direct supervision by this chapter or rules adopted by the board, without the presence of a dentist if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) The dental hygienist holds collaborative practice certification from the board certifying that the dental hygienist possesses a current Tennessee dental hygiene license in good standing, has actively practiced dental hygiene for two

thousand four hundred (2,400) hours in preceding eighteen (18) months or has practiced three thousand (3,000) hours in two of the past three (3) years, has current certification in basic life support (BLS) or cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and has completed six (6) hours of continuing education in public health content;

(B) The collaborative practice dental hygienist and collaborating dentist have entered into a written collaborative agreement whereby the dentist establishes a protocol concerning how treatment is to be carried out, will be reasonably available to provide consultation and will review patient records as necessary. The dentist need not examine the patient prior to the administration of dental hygiene services;

(C) The collaborative practice dental hygienist provides dental hygiene services to the patient in accordance with a written collaborative agreement developed by the collaborating dentist for the patient and maintains a copy of each collaborative agreement as;

(D) The collaborative dentist possesses a current Tennessee dental license in good standing and maintains an active clinical general dentistry or public health practice within the state and within a reasonable referral distance from the collaborative dental hygiene practice as determined by the board; and

(E) The collaborative dentist maintains a copy of each collaborative agreement.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.