

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1908 - SB 2510

February 27, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes dental hygienists to perform scaling and root planning, periodontal maintenance, and administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide under general supervision rather than direct supervision of a licensed dentist, if certain requirements are met. Authorizes dentists to utilize teledentistry techniques to accomplish general supervision requirements for initial and subsequent examinations of work performed by registered dental hygienists, registered dental assistants, and practice dental assistants by utilizing teledentistry technology.

Defines “teledentistry” as the use of information by technology and telecommunications for dental care, consultation, education, and public awareness in the same manner as authorized for telemedicine for health. Authorizes licensed dental hygienists to prescribe periodontal rinses, fluoride, and dentrifices; and authorizes a licensed pharmacist to fill prescriptions for periodontal rinses, fluoride, and dentrifices as written by a licensed dental hygienist.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-5-108, a dental hygienist may currently perform root planning, subgingival curettage, and administer nitrous oxide and local anesthesia only under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. Periodontal maintenance is authorized to be performed under general supervision if certain requirements are met.
- This legislation will allow a dental hygienist to perform root planning, periodontal maintenance, and administer nitrous oxide and local anesthesia under general supervision, if specified requirements are met.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-5-115, direct supervision requires a dentist to maintain continuous presence within the physical confines of the dental office when a licensed dental hygienist performs lawfully assigned duties and functions. General supervision does not require a dentist to be physically present in the dental office or treatment facility while procedures are being performed by a dental hygienist, if the dentist has personally diagnosed the condition to be treated, has personally authorized the procedures being performed, and will evaluate the performance of the dental hygienist.

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- Authorizing a dentist to utilize teledentistry technology will have no effect on a dentist's ability to accomplish the requirements of general supervision.
- The Board of Dentistry and Board of Pharmacy will not incur significant expenditures to effectuate the purposes of this legislation, including the authorization for licensed dental hygienists to prescribe periodontal rinses, fluoride, and dentrifices.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over any two year period. The Board of Dentistry had surpluses of \$220,760 in FY13-14, \$307,396 in FY14-15, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$4,025,076 on June 30, 2015. The Board of Pharmacy had a deficit of \$66,136 in FY13-14, a surplus of \$284,08 in FY14-15, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$1,444,168 on June 30, 2015.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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