

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB484

Hearing Date: Friday February 01, 2013
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Karpisek
One Liner: Change dental hygienist training and authorized functions

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Campbell, Cook, Crawford, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Watermeier
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Russ Karpisek
Jane Broekemeier
Deb Schardt
David O'Doherty
Nick Faustman

Representing:

District #32
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association
Nebraska Dental Association
Nebraska Health Care Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Current law requires three thousand hours of clinical experience in at least four of the preceding five calendar years for a dental hygienist to provide oral prophylaxis in public health settings.

LB 484 changes the requirement to allow a dental hygienist to treat children in a public health setting with the clinical experience gained in their original education. The treatment is 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 bill also changes the authorization of treatment of adults by dental hygienist from the current requirement that the three thousand hours of clinical experience be in four of the preceding five calendar years to three thousand hours of clinical experience. The authorization for the dental hygienist to treat adults is limited to treatment in a public health setting or health care or related facility and limited to treatment to include oral prophylaxis; pulp vitality testing; and preventive measures as specified.

Authorization will be granted by the department to treat adults according to these guidelines with an application, evidence of licensure, liability insurance, and the three thousand hours of clinical experience. The licensed dental hygienist performing the activities under this bill will be reported to the department on a form provided by the department. The dental hygienist will advise the recipient that the services are preventative and do not constitute a comprehensive dental diagnosis and care.

Finally, LB 484 requires that the department 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

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson