

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 572

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1986

Introduced by Marsh, 29; Lundy, 36; Hannibal, 4;  
Vickers, 38; Goll, 16; Warner, 25;  
Rupp, 22

AN ACT relating to dentistry; to amend section 71-193.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943; to change provisions relating to dental practice, dental hygienists, and dental auxiliaries; to define terms; to provide for rules and regulations; to eliminate a provision relating to dental hygienists; and to repeal the original section, and also section 71-193.09, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 71-193.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

71-193.13. Any licensed dentist, public institution, or school may employ dental auxiliaries, in addition to licensed dental hygienists. Such dental auxiliaries, under the supervision of a licensed dentist, may perform such duties as are prescribed in accordance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Department of Health; PROVIDED, that only a licensed dentist or a licensed dental hygienist may perform the sealing and polishing of teeth in the oral prophylaxis procedure.

Sec. 2. A licensed dental hygienist shall perform the traditional dental hygiene functions set forth in section 3 of this act only when authorized to do so by a licensed dentist who shall be responsible for the total oral health care of the patient. The Department of Health in the conduct of public health-related services may authorize a licensed dental hygienist to conduct preliminary charting and screening examinations, provide oral health education for patients including the teaching of appropriate plaque control techniques, and perform or provide all of the duties that any other dental auxiliary is authorized to perform.

Sec. 3. When properly authorized, a licensed dental hygienist, under the general supervision of a

licensed dentist, may perform the following intra and extra oral procedures:

(1) Scaling of teeth, including subgingival regions and root planing with hand and ultrasonic instruments;

(2) Polish all exposed tooth surfaces with motor-driven and hand instruments in the oral prophylaxis procedure, including polishing amalgam restorations;

(3) Conduct preliminary charting and screening examinations;

(4) Periodontal probing and charting;

(5) Gingival curettage;

(6) Place and remove periodontal dressings;

(7) Remove sutures;

(8) Provide preventive measures, such as the application of fluorides, sealants, and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease;

(9) Provide impressions for study casts;

(10) Apply topical desensitizing agents;

(11) Provide radiographic exposures;

(12) Provide oral health education for patients including the teaching of appropriate plaque control techniques; and

(13) Perform or provide all of the duties that any other dental auxiliary is authorized to perform.

Sec. 4. A licensed dental hygienist may monitor nitrous oxide analgesia under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist.

Sec. 5. As used in sections 71-183 to 71-193.14 and sections 2 to 7 of this act, (1) general supervision shall mean the directing of the authorized activities of a dental hygienist or other dental auxiliary by a licensed dentist and shall not be construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor when directing such activities and (2) indirect supervision shall mean supervision when the licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to be performed by a dental hygienist or dental auxiliary and the licensed dentist is physically present on the premises when such procedure is being performed by the dental auxiliary.

Sec. 6. The Department of Health may, by rule and regulation, prescribe functions, procedures, and services in addition to those in section 3 of this act which may be performed by a licensed dental hygienist under the supervision of a licensed dentist when such additional procedures are educational or related to the oral prophylaxis and intended to attain or maintain

optimal oral health.

Sec. 7. The Department of Health upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners in Dentistry may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations providing for employment or work-setting facilities required for the provision of dental services by a licensed dental hygienist.

Sec. 8. That original section 71-193.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and also section 71-193.09, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, are repealed.