

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 663

(Senators Patterson and Kagan)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Dental Examiners - Dental Specialization - Requirements

This bill authorizes the State Board of Dental Examiners to approve any area of specialty recognized by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (National Commission) rather than the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The qualifications required of applicants for board identification as a specialist may include requirements established by specialty certifying boards recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA) or the National Commission. An applicant for a teacher's license to practice dentistry who is engaged in teaching a dental specialty must meet the requirements established by the National Commission, rather than the ADA.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's changes are technical in nature and do not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A licensed dentist may not represent to the public that the licensee is a specialist in any field of specialized dental practice unless identified as a specialist in that field by the board.

The board may approve any area of specialty recognized by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor organization. The qualifications required of applicants for

board identification as a specialist may include the requirements established by various specialty certifying boards of the ADA. In approving additional specialties, the board may consider specialty fields recognized and approved by the ADA. The board is a depository for and the arbitrator of the specialty qualification standards of the ADA in the State.

To qualify for a teacher's license to practice dentistry, an applicant must (1) be licensed to practice dentistry in any other state; (2) have been active in the dental profession for at least five years; (3) be a full-time or part-time faculty member at a college or university where the applicant teaches a subject required by the dental school; and (4) if the applicant is engaged in a teaching area that is designated as a specialty by the ADA, meet the requirements established by the ADA for that specialty.

Background: The National Commission recognizes dental specialties and their respective national certifying boards based on the *ADA Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*. Recognized dental specialties include (1) dental public health; (2) endodontics; (3) orthodontics; (4) pediatric dentistry; (5) periodontology; (6) prosthodontics; and (7) oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology, and surgery.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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