

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 799

(Senators McKay and Guzzone)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults**

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This bill authorizes the State Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) to waive specified education requirements for an applicant for a limited license to practice adult, in addition to pediatric, dentistry. The board may grant a waiver if, in addition to other requirements under current law, the dental director of the federally qualified health center (FQHC) or Maryland qualified health center (MQHC) for which an applicant has contractually agreed to provide at least two years of dental services requests the waiver from BDE and states that circumstances exist to justify granting the waiver. The bill also establishes a pathway for practitioners of adult dentistry who receive a waiver under the bill to receive a general dentistry license in the State.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill’s requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not likely affected.

**Local Effect:** Any impact on local health departments (LHDs) can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. LHDs may benefit from a larger pool of limited licensees to help fill vacancies for adult dental programs.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Bill Summary:** Under current law, a limited license is issued to graduates of dental school outside of the United States or Canada and authorizes the licensee to

practice dentistry, including as an intern or resident, only for and on patients of a specific institution or public health program named on the license.

#### *Waiver Process for Limited License*

Under current law, BDE may waive the education requirements for an applicant for a limited license to practice dentistry who does not hold a dental education degree or equivalent from an institution recognized by the board, if the applicant:

- holds a dental education degree or equivalent from a school, college, or faculty of dentistry other than one located in the United States or Canada;
- has successfully completed at least a two-year *pediatric* dentistry residency program at a dental school or hospital authorized by any state and recognized by BDE;
- either is a *pediatric* dental fellow, or has successfully completed a *pediatric* dental fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School;
- is contractually obligated to provide *pediatric* dental services for at least two years in an FQHC or MQHC only to specified patients;
- limits practice to the public health dental clinic, FQHC, or MQHC for which the applicant has contractually agreed to provide *pediatric* dental services;
- is found to be of good moral character and professionally competent; and
- meets any other requirements that BDE may reasonably require.

The health officer of the public health program for which the applicant has contractually agreed to provide at least two years of *pediatric* dental services, and the Dean of the University of Maryland Dental School must request the waiver from BDE and state circumstances that exist to justify granting the waiver. The bill removes the requirement for the Dean of the University of Maryland *School of Dentistry* (rather than the University of Maryland Dental School) request the waiver from BDE.

Under the bill, the waiver process for a limited license is expanded by removing the term *pediatric* and allowing applicants providing *either pediatric or adult dentistry* to qualify. The bill also authorizes an applicant to complete a dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (rather than the University of Maryland Dental School) or another dental school recognized by BDE.

#### *Path to General License for Limited Licensees Granted a Waiver*

Under current law, BDE may issue a general license to a limited licensee who was granted a waiver, if the limited licensee:

- successfully completes at least a two-year contractual obligation to provide *pediatric* dental care;
- submits an application for a general license to practice dentistry;
- passes the (1) American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. examination; (2) Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination; and (3) National Board Examinations;
- demonstrates oral English competency, as specified; and
- is found to be of good moral character.

Under the bill, this pathway to a general license for individuals with a limited license issued via waiver is expanded to allow both pediatric and adult dentists to qualify.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 786 (Delegate Bagnall, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of County Health Officers; University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2024  
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Analysis by: Amberly E. Holcomb

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510