



**The Maryland State Dental Association Supports with Amendment HB 786 –
Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Adult Services**
Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on Behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association

The Maryland State Dental Association supports HB 786 because it is likely to increase dental access to some of the under-served citizens of the State of Maryland. The bill authorizes the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners to waive the requirements for licensure for a foreign trained dentist with specific requirements intended to protect patient safety and provide quality dental treatment.

Under current law a foreign trained dentist may be granted a limited license to practice pediatric dentistry if the dentist is a pediatric dental fellow or has successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the health officer of the public health program, and the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry request the waiver and state that circumstances exist to justify granting the waiver. As introduced HB 786 proposes to allow foreign trained dentists to also practice under a limited license if they are a dental fellow or have completed a dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. However, there is not a dental fellowship in general dentistry at the University, rather there is a two-year residency in Advanced Education in Dentistry. The attached amendment conform the bill to the curriculum of the School of Dentistry.

In addition, as assurance of the competency of the foreign trained dentist the bill, with the amendments, requires that the applicant:

1. Shall hold a dental degree from a school, college or faculty of dentistry other than one located in the US or Canada;
2. Has successfully completed at least a 2-year dentistry residency at a dental school or hospital authorized by any state and recognized by the Board;
3. Either is a pediatric dental fellow or has completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of dentistry, or has completed a 2-year residency in Advanced Education in Dentistry at the School of Dentistry.
4. Is contractually obligated for at least 2 years to provide dental services either a) in a public health dental clinic operated by the State, a county or municipality of the State, or b) in a federally or State qualified health center, and may only provide care to Medicaid, uninsured or indigent patients, or patients who otherwise qualify for dental care in a public health dental clinic;
5. Must limit their practice to the public health facility to which they are contractually obligated to provide dental services.

The limited license issued pursuant to this waiver provision shall expire and be immediately surrendered to the Board if the licensee's contract expires, or if the licensee fails to fully satisfy the licensee's obligations contractually to provide dental services for 2 years, or does not limit their practice to the facility for which the applicant agreed to provide dental services.

Finally, the limited licensee may apply for a general license under specific requirements which assure the clinical competency of the applicant, and the applicant's ability to communicate with dental patients in English competently.

The provisions of HB 786, as amended, will assure the deliverance of dental care by a competent foreign trained dentist. It provides that that care be provided only to Medicaid, uninsured or indigent patients, thus increasing access to dental care to those most in need.

For these reasons the Maryland State Dental Association requests that HB 786 be given a favorable report, with amendment.

**Submitted by:
Daniel T. Doherty, Jr,
February 13, 2024**

**Amendments to HB 786 - Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice
Dentistry – Adult Services**

Requested by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on Behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association

Amendment: On page 2 lines 11 and 12 amend as follows:

“(iii) either is a {pediatric} dental fellow, ~~or~~ has successfully completed a {pediatric} dental fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School of **DENTISTRY, OR HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN DENTISTRY 2-YEAR RESIDENCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY.**

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