



H.B. 211

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Schlichter

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes a statutory procedure whereby a licensed dental hygienist may temporarily retire from the practice of dental hygiene.
- Increases the continuing education requirements for dental hygienists to 24 hours (from 12) per two-year registration period, beginning January 1, 2008.
- Requires the Ohio State Dental Board to apply toward satisfaction of a hygienist's continuing education requirement any course the hygienist is required by law to complete, including the basic life-support training course; any course required by rules adopted by the Board as a condition of performing a particular function; any other course accepted by the Board; and any course the Board applied toward a hygienist's continuing education requirement for license reinstatement after a temporary retirement.
- Increases to four (from three) the number of years that a dental hygienist must retain documents regarding the hygienist's completion of continuing education programs.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Temporary retirement for dentists and dental hygienists

Current law and practice

Current law (R.C. 4715.14) prescribes a procedure whereby a dentist may temporarily retire from the practice of dentistry. To do this, a dentist must give the State Dental Board written notice of the intent to temporarily retire. The Board must grant the temporary retirement if at the time of applying for temporary

retirement, all previous registration fees and additional costs of reinstatement have been paid. A dentist can have a license reinstated after a temporary retirement by, among other things, submitting a reinstatement application and paying a reinstatement fee of \$245 to the Board.

While current law does not prescribe a procedure whereby a dental hygienist may temporarily retire from the practice of dental hygiene, according to the Board's licensing coordinator, the Board grants temporary retirements to dental hygienists if a procedure similar to the one in law applicable to dentists, described above, is followed; that is, the dental hygienist must inform the Board in writing before the hygienist's license lapses that he or she desires to temporarily retire. A dental hygienist who desires to come out of temporary retirement must, among other things, submit a reinstatement application and pay a reinstatement fee of \$105 to the Board.¹

Neither current law, nor State Dental Board rules, specifies the duration of a "temporary retirement" for dentists. The Board's licensing coordinator acknowledged that a dentist could be in temporary retirement for a relatively long period of time (*e.g.*, 20 years).²

The bill

(R.C. 4715.241)

The bill establishes a statutory procedure whereby a licensed dental hygienist may temporarily retire from the practice of dental hygiene. To do this, the hygienist must submit written notice of the intent to temporarily retire to the State Dental Board. Like current law governing temporary retirement for dentists, the bill does not specify the duration of a "temporary retirement."

Under the bill, the Board is required to grant a temporary retirement if the dental hygienist has paid the biennial registration fee for the registration period that includes the day immediately before the day the temporary retirement begins.³ The bill also specifies that the license of a dental hygienist granted temporary retirement is inactive.

¹ Telephone interview with Jane Smith, Licensing Coordinator, State Dental Board (May 11, 2007). The reinstatement applications for dentists and dental hygienists are available on the Dental Board's web site at <<http://www.dental.ohio.gov/forms/ddsreinstate.pdf>> and <<http://www.dental.ohio.gov/forms/hygreinstate.pdf>>.

² *Id.*

³ Currently, the biennial registration fee for dental hygienists is \$105 (R.C. 4715.24(A)).

Reinstatement of a dental hygienist license

(R.C. 4715.242)

The bill also establishes a statutory procedure whereby a dental hygienist who has been temporarily retired under the procedure described above may have the hygienist's license reinstated. The hygienist may submit a written request to the State Dental Board at any time for reinstatement of the license. The Board must reinstate the license if the hygienist does all of the following:

(1) Pays the biennial registration fee for the period that includes the day the temporary retirement will cease (currently, \$105).

(2) Pays a \$65 reinstatement fee payable to the Treasurer of State.

(3) Provides the Board with satisfactory evidence of the following:

(a) If the dental hygienist's license is to be reinstated in an even-numbered year, that the dental hygienist completed during the previous registration period that registration period's continuing education requirement.⁴

(b) If the dental hygienist's license is to be reinstated in an odd-numbered year, that the dental hygienist completed during the current registration period the current registration period's continuing education requirement.

The bill requires the Board to register each dental hygienist whose license is reinstated under this section. The registration expires at the end of the registration period during which the license is reinstated.

Continuing education requirements and records retention for dental hygienists

(R.C. 4715.25)

Current law

Current law requires a dental hygienist, at the time of applying for a renewal of registration every two years, to certify to the State Dental Board that the hygienist, in the preceding two years, has completed a minimum of 12 hours of continuing dental hygiene education.

⁴ Under existing law unchanged by the bill, dental hygienists register on or before January 1 of each even-numbered year (R.C. 4715.24(A)).

Current law also requires a dental hygienist to retain receipts, vouchers, or certificates that document the hygienist's completion of continuing education programs for at least three years.

The bill

The bill increases the continuing education requirement to 24 hours per two-year registration period, beginning after December 31, 2007.

The bill also requires the Board to apply toward satisfaction of the continuing education requirement (1) any course the registrant completed that is required by law for registration, including the basic life-support training course dental hygienists are required to complete, (2) any course required by rules adopted by the Board as a condition of performing a particular function, (3) any other course accepted by the Board, and (4) any course the Board applied toward the continuing education requirement for license reinstatement after a temporary retirement.

The bill increases to four the number of years a dental hygienist must retain receipts, vouchers, or certificates that document the hygienist's completion of continuing education programs.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-08-07

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