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Code:  Section:

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**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC**

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]** ( *Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399.*  )

**CHAPTER 4. Dentistry [1600 - 1976]** ( *Chapter 4 added by Stats. 1937, Ch. 415.*  )

**ARTICLE 9. Dental Hygienists [1900 - 1966.6]** ( *Article 9 added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47.*  )

**1900.** It is the intent of the Legislature by enactment of this article to permit the full utilization of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions in order to meet the dental care needs of all of the state's citizens.

(*Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.*)

**1901.** (a) There is hereby created in the Department of Consumer Affairs a Dental Hygiene Board of California in which the administration of this article is vested.

(b) Whenever the terms "Dental Hygiene Committee of California" or "committee" are used in this article, they mean the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

(c) Whenever the term "Dental Hygiene Committee of California" is used in any other law, it means the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed. Notwithstanding any other law, the repeal of this section renders the hygiene board subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

(*Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 677, Sec. 1. (AB 1257) Effective January 1, 2024. Repealed as of January 1, 2028, by its own provisions.*)

**1902.** For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Dental hygiene board" means the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

(b) "Dental board" means the Dental Board of California.

(c) "Direct supervision" means the supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who is required to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures.

(d) "General supervision" means the supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who is not required to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures.

(e) "Oral prophylaxis" means preventive and therapeutic dental procedures that include bacterial debridements with complete removal, supra and subgingivally, of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, and stains, and the smoothing of tooth surfaces. The objective of this treatment is to create an environment in which the patient can maintain healthy hard and soft tissues.

(*Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 2. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.*)

**1902.1.** Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the dental hygiene board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

(*Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 3. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.*)

**1902.2.** (a) A licensee shall report, upon initial licensure and any subsequent application for renewal or inactive license, the practice or employment status of the licensee, designated as one of the following:

(1) Full-time practice or employment in a dental or dental hygiene practice of 32 hours per week or more in California.

(2) Full-time practice or employment in a dental or dental hygiene practice of 32 hours or more outside of California.

- (3) Part-time practice or employment in a dental or dental hygiene practice for less than 32 hours per week in California.
- (4) Part-time practice or employment in a dental or dental hygiene practice for less than 32 hours per week outside of California.
- (5) Dental hygiene administrative employment that does not include direct patient care, as may be further defined by the dental hygiene board.
- (6) Retired.
- (7) Other practice or employment status, as may be further defined by the dental hygiene board.

(b) Information collected pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be posted on the internet website of the dental hygiene board.

(c) (1) A licensee may report on an application for renewal, and the dental hygiene board, as appropriate, shall collect, information regarding the licensee's cultural background and foreign language proficiency.

(2) Information collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be aggregated on an annual basis, based on categories utilized by the dental hygiene board in the collection of the data, into both statewide totals and ZIP Code of primary practice or employment location totals.

(3) Aggregated information under this subdivision shall be compiled annually, and reported on the internet website of the dental hygiene board as appropriate, on or before July 1 of each year.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature to utilize moneys in the State Dental Hygiene Fund to pay any cost incurred by the dental hygiene board in implementing this section.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 4. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1902.3.** A registered dental hygienist licensed in another state may teach in a dental hygiene college without being licensed in this state if the person has a special permit. A special permit shall remain valid for a period of four years, subject to subdivision (g), after which time the permit shall not be renewed. The dental hygiene board may issue a special permit to practice dental hygiene in a discipline at a dental hygiene college in this state to any person who submits an application and satisfies all of the following eligibility requirements:

(a) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having a pending contract with a California dental hygiene college approved by the dental hygiene board as a full-time or part-time professor, associate professor, assistant professor, faculty member, or instructor.

(b) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having graduated from a dental hygiene college approved by the dental hygiene board.

(c) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having been certified as a diplomate of a specialty committee or, in lieu thereof, establishing qualifications to take a specialty committee examination or furnishing satisfactory evidence of having completed an advanced educational program in a discipline from a dental hygiene college approved by the dental hygiene board.

(d) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed an examination in California law and ethics developed and administered by the dental hygiene board.

(e) If teaching during clinical practice sessions, furnishing satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed a course in periodontal soft-tissue curettage, local anesthesia, and nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia approved by the dental hygiene board.

(f) Complying with the fingerprint submission requirements as provided by Section 1916.

(g) Paying an application fee, subject to a biennial renewal fee, as provided by subdivision (k) of Section 1944.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 1. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1903.** (a) (1) The dental hygiene board shall consist of nine members as follows:

(A) Seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:

(i) Two members shall be public members.

(ii) One member shall be a practicing general or public health dentist who holds a current license in California.

(iii) Four members shall be registered dental hygienists who hold current licenses in California. Of the registered dental hygienist members, one shall be licensed either in alternative practice or in extended functions, one shall be a dental hygiene educator, and two shall be registered dental hygienists. No public member shall have been licensed under this chapter within five years of the date of their appointment or have any current financial interest in a dental-related business.

(B) One public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(C) One public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(2) (A) The first appointment by the Senate Committee on Rules or the Speaker of the Assembly pursuant to this subdivision shall be made upon the expiration of the term of a public member that is scheduled to occur, or otherwise occurs, on or after January 1, 2019.

(B) It is the intent of the Legislature that committee members appointed prior to January 1, 2019, remain as dental hygiene board members until their term expires or except as otherwise provided in law, whichever occurs first.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a public health dentist is a dentist whose primary employer or place of employment is in any of the following:

(A) A primary care clinic licensed under subdivision (a) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) A primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code.

(C) A clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system.

(D) A clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county's role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) (1) Except as specified in paragraph (2), members of the dental hygiene board shall be appointed for a term of four years. Each member shall hold office until the appointment and qualification of the member's successor or until one year shall have lapsed since the expiration of the term for which the member was appointed, whichever comes first.

(2) For the term commencing on January 1, 2012, two of the public members, the general or public health dentist member, and two of the registered dental hygienist members, other than the dental hygiene educator member or the registered dental hygienist member licensed in alternative practice or in extended functions, shall each serve a term of two years, expiring January 1, 2014.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subdivision (e), the Governor may appoint to the dental hygiene board a person who previously served as a member of the former committee or dental hygiene board even if the person's previous term expired.

(d) The dental hygiene board shall elect a president, a vice president, and a secretary from its membership.

(e) No person shall serve as a member of the dental hygiene board for more than two consecutive terms.

(f) A vacancy in the dental hygiene board shall be filled by appointment to the unexpired term.

(g) Each member of the dental hygiene board shall receive a per diem and expenses as provided in Section 103.

(h) Each appointing authority shall have the power to remove from office at any time any member of the board appointed by that authority pursuant to Section 106.

(i) The dental hygiene board, with the approval of the director, may appoint a person exempt from civil service who shall be designated as an executive officer and who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the dental hygiene board and vested in the executive officer by this article.

(j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed.

*(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 497, Sec. 6. (SB 1526) Effective January 1, 2025. Repealed as of January 1, 2028, by its own provisions.)*

**1904.** The dental hygiene board shall meet at least two times each calendar year and shall conduct additional meetings in appropriate locations that are necessary to transact its business.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 7. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1905.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall perform the following functions:

(1) Evaluate all registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienist in extended functions educational programs that apply for approval and grant or deny approval of those applications in accordance with regulations adopted by the dental hygiene board. Any such educational programs approved by the dental board on or before June 30, 2009, shall be deemed approved by the dental hygiene board. Any dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation may be approved.

(2) Withdraw or revoke its prior approval of a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions educational program in accordance with regulations adopted by the dental hygiene board. The dental hygiene board may withdraw or revoke a dental hygiene program approval if the Commission on Dental Accreditation has indicated an intent to withdraw approval or has withdrawn approval.

(3) Review and evaluate all registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienist in extended functions applications for licensure to ascertain whether the applicant meets the appropriate licensing requirements specified by statute and regulations, maintain application records, cashier application fees, issue and renew licenses, and perform any other tasks that are incidental to the application and licensure processes.

(4) Determine the appropriate type of license examination consistent with the provisions of this article, and develop or cause to be developed and administer examinations in accordance with regulations adopted by the dental hygiene board.

(5) Determine the amount of fees assessed under this article, not to exceed the actual cost.

(6) Determine and enforce the continuing education requirements specified in Section 1936.1.

(7) Deny, suspend, or revoke a license under this article, or otherwise enforce the provisions of this article. Any such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the dental hygiene board shall have all of the powers granted therein.

(8) Make recommendations to the dental board regarding dental hygiene scope of practice issues.

(9) Adopt, amend, and revoke rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this article, including the amount of required supervision by a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions of a registered dental assistant.

(b) The dental hygiene board may employ employees and examiners that it deems necessary to carry out its functions and responsibilities under this article.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 8. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1905.1.** The dental hygiene board may contract with the dental board to carry out this article. The dental hygiene board may contract with the dental board to perform investigations of applicants and licensees under this article.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 9. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1906.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall adopt, amend, and revoke regulations to implement the requirements of this article.

(b) All regulations adopted by the dental hygiene board shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(c) No regulation adopted by the dental hygiene board shall impose a requirement or a prohibition directly upon a licensed dentist or on the administration of a dental office, unless specifically authorized by this article.

(d) Unless contrary to the provisions of this article, regulations adopted by the dental board shall continue to apply to registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions until other regulations are adopted by the dental hygiene board. All references in those regulations to "board" shall mean the dental hygiene board, which shall solely enforce the regulations with respect to registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 11. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1907.** The following functions may be performed by a registered dental hygienist, in addition to those authorized pursuant to Sections 1908 to 1914, inclusive:

(a) All functions that may be performed by a registered dental assistant.

(b) All persons holding a license as a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions as of December 31, 2005, are authorized to perform the duties of a registered dental assistant specified in this chapter. All persons issued a license as a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions on or after January 1, 2006, shall apply for and receive a registered dental assistant license in accordance with subdivision (d) of Section 1752.1 and successfully complete any additional education required by subdivision (b) of Section 1752.4 prior to performance of the duties of a registered dental assistant specified in this chapter.

*(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 483, Sec. 67. (SB 1453) Effective January 1, 2025.)*

**1908.** (a) The practice of dental hygiene includes dental hygiene assessment and development, planning, and implementation of a dental hygiene care plan. It also includes oral health education, counseling, and health screenings.

(b) The practice of dental hygiene does not include any of the following procedures:

(1) Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment planning.

(2) Placing, condensing, carving, or removal of permanent restorations.

(3) Surgery or cutting on hard and soft tissue including, but not limited to, the removal of teeth and the cutting and suturing of soft tissue.

(4) Prescribing medication.

(5) Administering local or general anesthesia or oral or parenteral conscious sedation, except for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other, or local anesthesia pursuant to Section 1909.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1909.** A registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following procedures under direct supervision of a licensed dentist, after submitting to the dental hygiene board evidence of satisfactory completion of a course of instruction, approved by the dental hygiene board, in the procedures:

(a) Soft-tissue curettage.

(b) Administration of local anesthesia.

(c) Administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 12. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1910.** A registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following procedures under general supervision:

(a) Preventive and therapeutic interventions, including oral prophylaxis, scaling, and root planing.

(b) Application of topical, therapeutic, and subgingival agents used for the control of caries and periodontal disease.

(c) The taking of impressions for bleaching trays and application and activation of agents with nonlaser, light-curing devices.

(d) The taking of impressions for bleaching trays and placements of in-office, tooth-whitening devices.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1910.5.** (a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1910, a registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following additional duties, as specified:

(1) Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental hygienist shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph only applies in the following settings:

(A) In a dental office setting.

(B) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(2) Place protective restorations, which for this purpose are identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment. An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:

(A) In either of the following settings:

(i) In a dental office setting.

(ii) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

(b) The functions described in subdivision (a) may be performed by a registered dental hygienist only after completion of a program that includes training in performing those functions, or after providing evidence, satisfactory to the dental hygiene board, of having completed a dental hygiene board-approved course in those functions.

(c) No later than January 1, 2018, the dental hygiene board shall adopt regulations to establish requirements for courses of instruction for the procedures authorized to be performed by a registered dental hygienist and registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to Sections 1910.5 and 1926.05, using the competency-based training protocols established by the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) No. 172 through the Department of Health Care Access and Information. The dental hygiene board shall use the curriculum submitted by the dental board pursuant to Section 1753.55 to adopt regulatory language for approval of courses of instruction for the interim therapeutic restoration. Any subsequent amendments to the regulations for the interim therapeutic restoration curriculum that are promulgated by the dental hygiene board shall be agreed upon by the dental board and the dental hygiene board.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2018.

*(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 497, Sec. 7. (SB 1526) Effective January 1, 2025.)*

**1911.** (a) A registered dental hygienist may provide, without supervision, educational services, oral health training programs, and oral health screenings.

(b) A registered dental hygienist shall refer any screened patients with possible oral abnormalities to a dentist for a comprehensive examination, diagnosis, and treatment plan.

(c) In any public health program created by federal, state, or local law or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity, at a sponsored event by a sponsoring entity or at a nonprofit organization, a registered dental hygienist may provide, without supervision, dental hygiene preventive services in addition to oral screenings, including, but not limited to, the application of fluorides and pit and fissure sealants. A registered dental hygienist practicing as described in this subdivision may submit, or allow to be submitted, any insurance or third-party claims for patient services performed as authorized in this article.

(d) For purposes of this section, the following shall apply:

(1) "Nonprofit organization" means a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation supported and maintained in whole or in substantial part by donations, bequests, gifts, grants, government funds, or contributions, in the form of money, goods, or services, where dental hygiene services are performed. A nonprofit organization shall not be construed to be engaging in the unlicensed practice of dentistry.

(2) "Sponsored event" shall be defined as in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 1626.6.

(3) "Sponsoring entity" shall be defined as in paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 1626.6.

*(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 130, Sec. 1. (SB 653) Effective January 1, 2021.)*

**1911.5.** Notwithstanding Section 1912, a registered dental hygienist may provide, without supervision, fluoride varnish to a patient.

*(Added by Stats. 2020, Ch. 130, Sec. 2. (SB 653) Effective January 1, 2021.)*

**1912.** Any procedure performed or service provided by a registered dental hygienist that does not specifically require direct supervision shall require general supervision, so long as it does not give rise to a situation in the dentist's office requiring immediate services for alleviation of severe pain, or immediate diagnosis and treatment of unforeseeable dental conditions that, if not immediately diagnosed and treated, would lead to serious disability or death.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1913.** Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, a registered dental hygienist may perform any procedure or provide any service within the scope of their practice in any setting under the appropriate level of supervision required by this article, if the registered dental hygienist has completed the appropriate education and training required to perform the procedure or provide the service.

*(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 312, Sec. 11. (SB 1474) Effective January 1, 2021.)*

**1914.** A registered dental hygienist may use any material or device approved for use in the performance of a service or procedure within his or her scope of practice under the appropriate level of supervision, if he or she has the appropriate education and training required to use the material or device.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1915.** No person other than a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions or a licensed dentist may engage in the practice of dental hygiene or perform dental hygiene procedures on patients, including, but not limited to, supragingival and subgingival scaling, dental hygiene assessment, and treatment planning, except for the following persons:

(a) A student enrolled in a dental or a dental hygiene school who is performing procedures as part of the regular curriculum of that program under the supervision of the faculty of that program.

(b) A dental assistant acting in accordance with the rules of the dental board in performing the following procedures:

(1) Applying nonaerosol and noncaustic topical agents.

(2) Applying topical fluoride.

(3) Taking impressions for bleaching trays.

(c) A registered dental assistant acting in accordance with the rules of the dental board in performing the following procedures:

(1) Polishing the coronal surfaces of teeth.

(2) Applying bleaching agents.

(3) Activating bleaching agents with a nonlaser light-curing device.

(4) Applying pit and fissure sealants.

(d) A registered dental assistant in extended functions acting in accordance with the rules of the dental board in applying pit and fissure sealants.

(e) A registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions licensed in another jurisdiction, performing a clinical demonstration for educational purposes.

*(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 473, Sec. 2. (SB 821) Effective January 1, 2014.)*

**1916.** (a) (1) An applicant for licensure under this article shall furnish electronic fingerprint images for submission to state and federal criminal justice agencies, including, but not limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in order to establish the identity of the applicant and for the other purposes described in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an out-of-state applicant or licensee residing out of state for whom an electronic record of the licensee's fingerprints does not exist shall furnish a hardcopy of the applicant's or licensee's fingerprint card if electronic fingerprint images are not available or shared in the applicant's or licensee's state of residence.

(b) The dental hygiene board shall submit the fingerprint images or card to the Department of Justice for the purposes of obtaining criminal offender record information regarding state and federal level convictions and arrests, including arrests for which the Department of Justice establishes that the person is free on bail or on their own recognizance pending trial or appeal.

(c) When received, the Department of Justice shall forward to the Federal Bureau of Investigation requests for federal summary criminal history information received pursuant to this section. The Department of Justice shall review the information returned from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and compile and disseminate the response to the dental hygiene board.

(d) The Department of Justice shall provide a response to the dental hygiene board pursuant to subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

(e) The dental hygiene board shall request from the Department of Justice subsequent arrest notification service, as provided pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code.

(f) The information obtained as a result of the fingerprinting shall be used in accordance with Section 11105 of the Penal Code, and to determine whether the applicant is subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) or Section 1943.

(g) The Department of Justice shall charge a fee sufficient to cover the cost of processing the request described in this section.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 14. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1917.** The dental hygiene board shall grant initial licensure as a registered dental hygienist to a person who satisfies all of the following requirements:

(a) Completion of an educational program for registered dental hygienists, approved by the dental hygiene board, accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and conducted by a degree-granting, postsecondary institution.

(b) Within the preceding three years, a person completed either of the following:

(1) Satisfactory completion of the dental hygiene examination given by the Western Regional Examining Board or any other clinical or dental hygiene examination approved by the dental hygiene board.

(2) Graduation from a California accredited dental hygiene college approved by the dental hygiene board.



- (c) Satisfactory completion of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.
- (d) Satisfactory completion of the examination in California law and ethics as prescribed by the dental hygiene board.
- (e) Submission of a completed application form and all fees required by the dental hygiene board.
- (f) Satisfactory completion of dental hygiene board-approved instruction in gingival soft-tissue curettage, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, and local anesthesia.
- (g) Current, valid certification in basic life support offered by a course consistent with Section 1016, 1016.2, or 1017 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

*(Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 677, Sec. 3. (AB 1257) Effective January 1, 2024.)*

**1917.1.** (a) The dental hygiene board may grant a license as a registered dental hygienist to an applicant who has not taken a clinical examination before the dental hygiene board, if the applicant submits all of the following to the dental hygiene board:

- (1) A completed application form and all fees required by the dental hygiene board.
- (2) Proof of a current license as a registered dental hygienist issued by another state that is not revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted.
- (3) Proof that the applicant has been in clinical practice as a registered dental hygienist or has been a full-time faculty member in an accredited dental hygiene education program for a minimum of 750 hours per year for at least five years immediately preceding the date of application under this section. The clinical practice requirement shall be deemed met if the applicant provides proof of at least three years of clinical practice and commits to completing the remaining two years of clinical practice by filing with the dental hygiene board a copy of a pending contract to practice dental hygiene in any of the following facilities:
  - (A) A primary care clinic licensed under subdivision (a) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (B) A primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (C) A clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system.
  - (D) A clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county's role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (4) Satisfactory performance on a California law and ethics examination and any examination that may be required by the dental hygiene board.
- (5) Proof that the applicant has not been subject to disciplinary action by any state in which the applicant is or has been previously issued any professional or vocational license. If the applicant has been subject to disciplinary action, the dental hygiene board shall review that action to determine if it warrants refusal to issue a license to the applicant.
- (6) Proof of graduation from a school of dental hygiene accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- (7) Proof of satisfactory completion of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and of a state clinical examination, regional clinical licensure examination, or any other clinical dental hygiene examination approved by the dental hygiene board.
- (8) Proof that the applicant has not failed the state clinical examination, the examination given by the Western Regional Examining Board, or any other clinical dental hygiene examination approved by the dental hygiene board for licensure to practice dental hygiene under this chapter more than once or once within five years prior to the date of application for a license under this section.
- (9) Documentation of completion of a minimum of 25 units of continuing education earned in the two years preceding application, including completion of any continuing education requirements imposed by the dental hygiene board on registered dental hygienists licensed in this state at the time of application.
- (10) Satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed a course or education and training in local anesthesia, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, and periodontal soft-tissue curettage approved by the dental hygiene board.
- (11) Any other information as specified by the dental hygiene board to the extent that it is required of applicants for licensure by examination under this article.



(b) The dental hygiene board may periodically request verification of compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) and may revoke the license upon a finding that the employment requirement or any other requirement of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) has not been met.

(c) The dental hygiene board shall provide in the application packet to each out-of-state dental hygienist pursuant to this section the following information:

(1) The location of dental manpower shortage areas in the state.

(2) Any nonprofit clinics, public hospitals, and accredited dental hygiene education programs seeking to contract with licensees for dental hygiene service delivery or training purposes.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 2. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1917.3.** Notwithstanding Section 135, an examinee for a registered dental hygienist license who either fails to pass the clinical examination required by Section 1917 after three attempts or fails to pass the clinical examination as a result of a single incidence of imposing gross trauma on a patient shall not be eligible for further reexamination until the examinee has successfully completed remedial education at an approved dental hygiene program or a comparable organization approved by the dental hygiene board.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 17. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1918.** The dental hygiene board shall license as a registered dental hygienist in extended functions a person who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Holds a current license as a registered dental hygienist in California.

(b) Completes clinical training approved by the dental hygiene board in a facility affiliated with a dental school under the direct supervision of the dental school faculty.

(c) Performs satisfactorily on an examination required by the dental hygiene board.

(d) Completes an application form and pays all application fees required by the dental hygiene board.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 18. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1920.** (a) A person who holds a current and active license as a registered dental hygienist in extended functions or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice on July 1, 2009, shall automatically be issued a license as a registered dental hygienist, unless the person holds a current and active registered dental hygienist license.

(b) A registered dental hygienist license issued pursuant to this section shall expire on the same date as the person's registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions license, and shall be subject to the same renewal and other requirements imposed by law or regulation on a license.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1921.** In addition to any other duties or functions authorized by law, a registered dental hygienist in extended functions or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may perform any of the duties or functions authorized to be performed by a registered dental hygienist.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1922.** The dental hygiene board shall license as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice a person who demonstrates satisfactory performance on an examination in California law and ethics required by the dental hygiene board and who completes an application form and pays all application fees required by the dental hygiene board and meets either of the following requirements:

(a) Holds a current California license as a registered dental hygienist and meets the following requirements:

(1) Has been engaged in the practice of dental hygiene, as defined in Section 1908, as a registered dental hygienist in any setting, including, but not limited to, educational settings and public health settings, for a minimum of 2,000 hours during the immediately preceding 36 months.

(2) Has successfully completed a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, recognized as a minimum of 120 semester credit hours or 180 quarter credit hours in postsecondary education, from a college or institution of higher education that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, and a minimum of 150 hours of additional educational requirements, as prescribed by the dental hygiene board by regulation, that are consistent with good dental and dental hygiene practice, including, but not necessarily limited to, dental hygiene technique and theory including gerontology and medical emergencies, and business administration and practice management.

(b) Has received a letter of acceptance into the employment utilization phase of the Health Workforce Pilot Project No. 155 established by the Department of Health Care Access and Information pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 128125) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code.

*(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 511, Sec. 4. (SB 1495) Effective January 1, 2023.)*

**1924.** A person licensed as a registered dental hygienist who has completed the prescribed classes through the Health Manpower Pilot Project (HMPP) and who has established an independent practice under the HMPP by June 30, 1997, shall be deemed to have satisfied the licensing requirements under Section 1922, and shall be authorized to continue to operate the practice he or she presently operates, so long as he or she follows the requirements for prescription and functions as specified in Sections 1922, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930, and 1931, and subdivision (b) of Section 1929, and as long as he or she continues to personally practice and operate the practice or until he or she sells the practice to a licensed dentist.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1925.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may practice, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1907, subdivision (a) of Section 1908, subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 1910, Section 1910.5, and Section 1926.05 as an employee of a dentist or of another registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, as an independent contractor, as a sole proprietor of an alternative dental hygiene practice, in a primary care clinic or specialty clinic that is licensed pursuant to Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, in a primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, in a clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system, in a clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county's role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or in a professional corporation under the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (commencing with Section 13400) of Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code.

*(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 130, Sec. 3. (SB 653) Effective January 1, 2021.)*

**1926.** In addition to practices authorized in Section 1925, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may perform the duties authorized pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1907, subdivision (a) of Section 1908, and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 1910 in the following settings:

(a) Residences of the homebound.

(b) Schools.

(c) Residential facilities and other institutions and medical settings that a residential facility patient has been transferred to for outpatient services.

(d) Dental health professional shortage areas, as certified by the Department of Health Care Access and Information in accordance with existing office guidelines. If the dental health professional shortage area certification is removed, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice with an existing practice in the area may continue to provide dental hygiene services, and shall annually provide patients treated at an existing practice with a list of dentists in the previous dental health professional shortage area who may be able to see the patient for comprehensive services.

(e) Dental offices.

*(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 481, Sec. 6. (SB 1451) Effective January 1, 2025.)*

**1926.01.** (a) In addition to practices authorized in Section 1925, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may perform the duties authorized pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 1909 with documented consultation with a collaborating dentist in the following settings:

(1) Residences of the homebound.

(2) Residential facilities and other institutions and medical settings that a residential facility patient has been transferred to for outpatient services.

(3) Dental health professional shortage areas, as certified by the Department of Health Care Access and Information in accordance with existing office guidelines.

(4) Dental offices.

(b) The registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall have all of the following immediately available when services authorized in this section are being performed:

(1) One additional individual trained in basic life support qualified to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation during an emergency.

(2) Equipment and supplies for emergency response, including oxygen.

*(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 511, Sec. 6. (SB 1495) Effective January 1, 2023.)*

**1926.05.** (a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1926, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice is authorized to perform the duties pursuant to Section 1910.5, in the following settings:

(1) Residences of the homebound.

(2) Schools.

(3) Residential facilities and other institutions.

(4) Dental or medical settings.

(5) Dental health professional shortage areas, as certified by the Department of Health Care Access and Information in accordance with existing office guidelines.

(b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice is authorized to perform the duties pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 1910.5 in the settings specified in this section after there has been a diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

*(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 511, Sec. 7. (SB 1495) Effective January 1, 2023.)*

**1926.1.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may operate a mobile dental hygiene clinic in the settings listed in Section 1926.

(b) The registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall register the mobile dental hygiene clinic with the dental hygiene board in compliance with Sections 1926.2 and 1926.3.

(c) The dental hygiene board may conduct announced and unannounced reviews and inspections of a mobile dental hygiene clinic to ensure continued compliance with the requirements for continued approval under this article.

(d) It shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the mobile dental hygiene clinic is found to be noncompliant with any requirements necessary for licensure, and the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may be placed on probation with terms, issued a citation and fine, or have the mobile dental hygiene clinic registration withdrawn if compliance is not demonstrated within reasonable timelines, as established by the dental hygiene board.

(e) The dental hygiene board, by itself or through an authorized representative, may issue a citation containing fines and orders of abatement to the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice for any violation of this section, Section 1926.2, Section 1926.3, or any regulations adopted thereunder. Any fine collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the State Dental Hygiene Fund established pursuant to Section 1944.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 3. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1926.2.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may operate one mobile dental hygiene clinic registered as a dental hygiene office or facility. The owner or operator of the mobile dental hygiene clinic or unit shall be registered and operated in accordance with regulations established by the dental hygiene board, which regulations shall not be designed to prevent or lessen competition in service areas, and shall pay the fees described in Section 1944.

(b) A mobile service unit, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1765.105 of the Health and Safety Code, and a mobile unit operated by an entity that is exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (b), (c), or (h) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, are exempt from this article. Notwithstanding this exemption, the owner or operator of the mobile unit shall notify the dental hygiene board within 60 days of the date on which dental hygiene services are first delivered in the mobile unit, or the date on which the mobile unit's application pursuant to Section 1765.130 of the Health and Safety Code is approved, whichever is earlier.

(c) A licensee practicing in a mobile unit described in subdivision (b) is not subject to subdivision (a) as to that mobile unit.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 21. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1926.3.** (a) Every person who is now or hereafter licensed as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice in this state shall register with the executive officer, on forms prescribed by the dental hygiene board, the physical facility of registered dental hygienist in alternative practice or, if the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice has more than one physical facility pursuant to

Section 1926.4, all of the physical facilities. If the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice does not have a physical facility, the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall notify the executive officer. A person licensed by the dental hygiene board shall register with the executive officer within 30 days after the date of the issuance of the person's license as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.

(b) (1) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice who utilizes portable equipment to practice dental hygiene shall register with the executive officer, on forms prescribed by the dental hygiene board, the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice's physical facility where the portable equipment is maintained.

(2) The dental hygiene board may conduct announced and unannounced reviews and inspections of a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice's physical facilities and equipment described in paragraph (1) to ensure continued compliance with the requirements for continued approval under this article.

(c) It shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice's physical facility or equipment is found to be noncompliant with any requirements necessary for licensure and a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may be placed on probation with terms, issued a citation and fine, or have the owned physical facility registration withdrawn if compliance is not demonstrated within reasonable timelines, as established by the dental hygiene board.

(d) The dental hygiene board, by itself or through an authorized representative, may issue a citation containing fines and orders of abatement to the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice for any violation of this section, Section 1925, Section 1926.4, or any regulations adopted thereunder. Any fine collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the State Dental Hygiene Fund established pursuant to Section 1944.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 4. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1926.4.** When a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice desires to have more than one place of practice, the person shall, before opening the additional office, apply to the dental hygiene board, pay the fee required by Section 1944, and obtain permission in writing from the dental hygiene board to have the additional place of practice, subject to a biennial renewal fee described in Section 1944.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 23. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1927.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall not do any of the following:

(a) Infer, purport, advertise, or imply that he or she is in any way able to provide dental services or make any type of dental diagnosis beyond evaluating a patient's dental hygiene status, providing a dental hygiene treatment plan, and providing the associated dental hygiene services.

(b) Hire a registered dental hygienist to provide direct patient services other than a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.

*(Amended by Stats. 2011, Ch. 350, Sec. 7. (SB 943) Effective January 1, 2012.)*

**1928.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may submit or allow to be submitted any insurance or third-party claims for patient services performed as authorized pursuant to this article.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1929.** (a) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may hire other registered dental hygienists in alternative practice to assist in his or her practice.

(b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may hire and supervise dental assistants performing intraoral retraction and suctioning.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1930.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall provide to the dental hygiene board documentation of an existing relationship with at least one dentist for referral, consultation, and emergency services.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 24. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1931.** (a) (1) A dental hygienist in alternative practice may provide services to a patient without obtaining written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state.

(2) If the dental hygienist in alternative practice provides services to a patient 18 months or more after the first date that the person provides services to a patient, the person shall obtain written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state. The verification shall include a prescription for dental hygiene services as described in subdivision (b).

(b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may provide dental hygiene services for a patient who presents to the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice a written prescription for dental hygiene services issued by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state. The prescription shall be valid for a time period based on the dentist's or physician and surgeon's professional judgment, but not to exceed two years from the date it was issued.

(c) (1) The dental hygiene board may seek to obtain an injunction against any registered dental hygienist in alternative practice who provides services pursuant to this section, if the dental hygiene board has reasonable cause to believe that the services are being provided to a patient who has not received a prescription for those services from a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state.

(2) Providing services pursuant to this section without obtaining a prescription in accordance with subdivision (b) shall constitute unprofessional conduct on the part of the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and reason for the dental hygiene board to revoke or suspend the license of the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to Section 1947.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 25. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1932.** (a) The dental hygiene board may, in its sole discretion, issue a probationary license to an applicant who has satisfied all requirements for licensure as a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions. The dental hygiene board may require, as a term or condition of issuing the probationary license, that the applicant comply with certain additional requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Successfully completing a professional competency examination.

(2) Submitting to a medical or psychological evaluation.

(3) Submitting to continuing medical or psychological treatment.

(4) Abstaining from the use of alcohol or drugs.

(5) Submitting to random fluid testing for alcohol or controlled substance abuse.

(6) Submitting to continuing participation in a dental hygiene board-approved rehabilitation program.

(7) Restricting the type or circumstances of practice.

(8) Submitting to continuing education and coursework.

(9) Complying with requirements regarding notifying the dental hygiene board of any change of employer or employment.

(10) Complying with probation monitoring.

(11) Complying with all laws and regulations governing the practice of dental hygiene.

(12) Limiting the applicant's practice to a supervised, structured environment in which the applicant's activities are supervised by a specified person.

(b) The term of a probationary license is three years. During the term of the license, the licensee may petition the dental hygiene board for a modification of a term or condition of the license or for the issuance of a license that is not probationary.

(c) The proceedings under this section shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the dental hygiene board shall have all the powers granted in that chapter.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 26. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1933.** A licensee shall be issued a substitute license upon request and payment of the required fee. The request shall be accompanied by an affidavit or declaration containing satisfactory evidence of the loss or destruction of the license certificate.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1934.** A licensee who changes their physical address of record or email address shall notify the dental hygiene board within 30 days of the change. A licensee who changes their legal name shall provide the dental hygiene board with documentation of the change within 10 days.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 27. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1935.** If not renewed, a license issued under the provisions of this article, unless specifically excepted, expires at 12 midnight on the last day of the month of the legal birth date of the licensee during the second year of a two-year term. To renew an unexpired license, the licensee shall, before the time at which the license would otherwise expire, apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the dental hygiene board and pay the renewal fee prescribed by this article.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 28. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1936.** Except as otherwise provided in this article, an expired license may be renewed at any time within five years after its expiration by filing an application for renewal on a form prescribed by the dental hygiene board and payment of all accrued renewal and delinquency fees. If the license is renewed after its expiration, the licensee, as a condition precedent of renewal, shall also pay the delinquency fee prescribed by this article. Renewal under this section shall be effective on the date on which the application is filed, on the date on which the renewal fee is paid, or on the date on which the delinquency fee, if any, is paid, whichever last occurs. If so renewed, the license shall continue in effect until the expiration date provided in Section 1935 that next occurs after the effective date of the renewal.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 29. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1936.1.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall require, as a condition of license renewal, that licensees submit assurances satisfactory to the dental hygiene board that they had, during the preceding two-year period, informed themselves of the developments in the practice of dental hygiene occurring since the original issuance of their licenses by pursuing one or more courses of study satisfactory to the dental hygiene board, or by other means deemed equivalent by the dental hygiene board. The dental hygiene board shall adopt, amend, and revoke regulations providing for the suspension of the licenses at the end of the two-year period until compliance with the assurances provided for in this section is accomplished. The dental hygiene board shall conduct random audits of at least 5 percent of the licensee population each year to ensure compliance of the continuing education requirement.

(b) The dental hygiene board shall also, as a condition of license renewal, require licensees to successfully complete a portion of the required continuing education hours in specific areas adopted in regulations by the dental hygiene board. The dental hygiene board may prescribe this mandatory coursework within the general areas of patient care, health and safety, and law and ethics. The mandatory coursework prescribed by the dental hygiene board shall not exceed 10 hours per renewal period. Any mandatory coursework required by the dental hygiene board shall be credited toward the continuing education requirements established by the dental hygiene board pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) The providers of courses referred to in this section shall be approved by the dental hygiene board. Providers approved by the dental board shall be deemed approved by the dental hygiene board.

*(Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 677, Sec. 4. (AB 1257) Effective January 1, 2024.)*

**1937.** A suspended license is subject to expiration and shall be renewed as provided in this article. The renewal does not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the licensed activity or in any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which the license was suspended.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1938.** A revoked license is subject to expiration as provided in this article. A revoked license may not be renewed. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee, as a condition precedent to its reinstatement, shall pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which it is reinstated and the delinquency fee, if any, accrued at the time of its revocation.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1939.** A license that is not renewed within five years after its expiration may not be renewed, restored, reinstated, or reissued. The holder of the license may apply for and obtain a new license upon meeting all of the requirements of a new applicant prescribed in this article.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1940.** (a) A licensee who desires an inactive license shall submit an application to the dental hygiene board on a form provided by the dental hygiene board.

(b) In order to restore an inactive license to active status, the licensee shall submit an application to the dental hygiene board on a form provided by the dental hygiene board, accompanied by evidence that the licensee has completed the required number of hours of approved continuing education in compliance with this article within the last two years preceding the date of the application.

(c) The holder of an inactive license shall continue to pay to the dental hygiene board the required biennial renewal fee.



(d) Within 30 days of receiving a request either to restore an inactive license or to inactivate a license, the dental hygiene board shall inform the applicant in writing whether the application is complete and accepted for filing or is deficient and, if so, the specific information required to complete the application.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 31. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1941.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall grant or renew approval of only those educational programs for RDHs that continuously maintain a high-quality standard of instruction and, where appropriate, meet the minimum standards set by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or an equivalent body, as determined by the dental hygiene board.

(b) A new educational program for RDHs shall submit a feasibility study demonstrating a need for a new educational program and shall apply for approval from the dental hygiene board before seeking any required approval for initial accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or an equivalent body, as determined by the dental hygiene board. The dental hygiene board may approve, provisionally approve, or deny approval of a new educational program for RDHs.

(c) For purposes of this section, a new or existing educational program for RDHs means a program provided by a college or institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and that has as its primary purpose providing college level courses leading to an associate or higher degree, that is either affiliated with or conducted by a dental school approved by the dental board, or that is accredited to offer college level or college parallel programs by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or an equivalent body, as determined by the dental hygiene board.

(d) For purposes of this section, "RDHs" means registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienists in extended functions.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 5. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1941.5.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall renew approval of educational programs for a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions that certify to the dental hygiene board on a form prescribed by the dental hygiene board that the program continues to meet the requirements prescribed by the dental hygiene board.

(b) The dental hygiene board may conduct periodic surveys, evaluations, and announced and unannounced site visits to existing and new educational programs for a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions to ensure continued compliance of educational program requirements and Commission on Dental Accreditation standards for continued approval.

(c) An existing or new educational program for a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions that is found to be noncompliant with the educational program requirements and Commission on Dental Accreditation standards may be placed on probation with terms, issued a citation and fine, or have its approval withdrawn if compliance is not met within reasonable specified timelines.

(d) The dental hygiene board, or through an authorized representative, may issue a citation containing fines and orders of abatement for any approved educational program for a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions for any violation of this section or the regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 33. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1942.** (a) As used in this article, "extramural dental facility" means any clinical facility that has contracted with an approved dental hygiene educational program for instruction in dental hygiene, that exists outside or beyond the walls, boundaries, or precincts of the primary campus of the approved program, and in which dental hygiene services are rendered.

(b) An approved dental hygiene educational program shall register an extramural dental facility with the dental hygiene board. That registration shall be accompanied by information supplied by the dental hygiene program pertaining to faculty supervision, scope of treatment to be rendered, name and location of the facility, date on which the operation will commence, discipline of which the instruction is a part, and a brief description of the equipment and facilities available. The foregoing information shall be supplemented by a copy of the agreement between the approved dental hygiene educational program or parent university, and the affiliated institution establishing the contractual relationship. Any change in the information initially provided to the dental hygiene board shall be communicated to the dental hygiene board.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 34. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1943.** (a) The dental hygiene board may deny an application to take an examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions at any time prior to licensure for any of the following reasons:



(1) The applicant committed an act that is a ground for license suspension or revocation under this code or that is a ground for the denial of licensure under Section 480.

(2) The applicant committed or aided and abetted the commission of any act for which a license is required under this chapter.

(3) Another state or territory suspended or revoked the license that it had issued to the applicant on a ground that constitutes a basis in this state for the suspension or revocation of licensure under this article.

(b) The proceedings under this section shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the dental hygiene board shall have all of the powers granted therein.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 35. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1944.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall establish by resolution the amount of the fees that relate to the licensing of a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and a registered dental hygienist in extended functions. The fees established by dental hygiene board resolution in effect on June 30, 2009, as they relate to the licensure of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions, shall remain in effect until modified by the dental hygiene board. The fees are subject to the following limitations:

(1) The application fee for an original license and the fee for issuance of an original license shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(2) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(3) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in extended functions shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(4) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall not exceed the actual cost of administering the examination.

(5) The biennial renewal fee shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(6) The delinquency fee shall not exceed one-half of the renewal fee. Any delinquent license may be restored only upon payment of all fees, including the delinquency fee, and compliance with all other applicable requirements of this article.

(7) The fee for issuance of a duplicate license to replace one that is lost or destroyed, or in the event of a name change, shall not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) or one-half of the renewal fee, whichever is greater.

(8) The fee for certification of licensure shall not exceed one-half of the renewal fee.

(9) The fee for each curriculum review and feasibility study review for educational programs for dental hygienists who are not accredited by a dental hygiene board-approved agency shall not exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100).

(10) The fee for each review or approval of course requirements for licensure or procedures that require additional training shall not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750).

(11) The initial application and biennial fee for a provider of continuing education shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(12) The amount of fees payable in connection with permits issued under Section 1962 is as follows:

(A) The initial permit fee is an amount equal to the renewal fee for the applicant's license to practice dental hygiene in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which the permit is issued.

(B) If the permit will expire less than one year after its issuance, then the initial permit fee is an amount equal to 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which the permit is issued.

(13) The fee for the dental hygiene board to conduct a site visit to educational programs for a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions to ensure compliance of educational program requirements shall not exceed the actual cost incurred by the dental hygiene board for cost recovery of site visit expenditures.

(14) The fee for a retired license shall not exceed one-half of the current license renewal fee.

(b) The renewal and delinquency fees shall be fixed by the dental hygiene board by resolution at not more than the current amount of the renewal fee for a license to practice under this article nor less than five dollars (\$5).

(c) Fees fixed by the dental hygiene board by resolution pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the approval of the Office of Administrative Law.

(d) Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be collected by the dental hygiene board and deposited into the State Dental Hygiene Fund, which is hereby created. All money in this fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, shall be used to implement this article.

(e) No fees or charges other than those listed in this section shall be levied by the dental hygiene board in connection with the licensure of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienists in extended functions.

(f) The fee for registration of an extramural dental facility shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(g) The fee for registration of a mobile dental hygiene unit shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

(h) The biennial renewal fee for a mobile dental hygiene unit shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(i) The fee for an additional office permit shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(j) The biennial renewal fee for an additional office as described in Section 1926.4 shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(k) The initial application and biennial special permit fee is an amount equal to the biennial renewal fee specified in paragraph (6) of subdivision (a).

(l) The fees in this section shall not exceed an amount sufficient to cover the reasonable regulatory cost of carrying out this article.

*(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 497, Sec. 8. (SB 1526) Effective January 1, 2025.)*

**1947.** A license issued under this article and a license issued under this chapter to a registered dental hygienist, to a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or to a registered dental hygienist in extended functions may be revoked or suspended by the dental hygiene board for any reason specified in this article for the suspension or revocation of a license to practice dental hygiene.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 37. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1949.** A licensee may have their license revoked or suspended, or may be reprimanded or placed on probation by the dental hygiene board for unprofessional conduct, incompetence, gross negligence, repeated acts of negligence in the licensee's profession, receiving a license by mistake, or for any other cause applicable to the licensee provided in this article. The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the dental hygiene board shall have all the powers granted therein.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 38. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1950.** (a) A licensee may have their license revoked or suspended, or may be reprimanded or placed on probation by the dental hygiene board, for conviction of a crime substantially related to the licensee's qualifications, functions, or duties. The record of conviction or a copy certified by the clerk of the court or by the judge in whose court the conviction occurred shall be conclusive evidence of conviction.

(b) The dental hygiene board shall undertake proceedings under this section upon the receipt of a certified copy of the record of conviction. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge of a felony or of any misdemeanor substantially related to the licensee's qualifications, functions, or duties is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section.

(c) The dental hygiene board may reprimand a licensee or order a license suspended or revoked, or placed on probation or may decline to issue a license, when any of the following occur:

(1) The time for appeal has elapsed.

(2) The judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal.

(3) An order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under any provision of the Penal Code, including, but not limited to, Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code, allowing a person to withdraw their plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 39. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1950.5.** Unprofessional conduct by a person licensed under this article is defined as, but is not limited to, any one of the following:

- (a) The obtaining of any fee by fraud or misrepresentation.
- (b) The aiding or abetting of any unlicensed person to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.
- (c) The aiding or abetting of a licensed person to practice dentistry or dental hygiene unlawfully.
- (d) The committing of any act or acts of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient that are substantially related to the practice of dental hygiene.
- (e) The use of any false, assumed, or fictitious name, either as an individual, firm, corporation, or otherwise, or any name other than the name under which the person is licensed to practice, in advertising or in any other manner indicating that the person is practicing or will practice dentistry, except the name specified in a valid permit issued pursuant to Section 1962.
- (f) The practice of accepting or receiving any commission or the rebating in any form or manner of fees for professional services, radiographs, prescriptions, or other services or articles supplied to patients.
- (g) The making use by the licensee or any agent of the licensee of any advertising statements of a character tending to deceive or mislead the public.
- (h) The advertising of either professional superiority or the advertising of performance of professional services in a superior manner. This subdivision shall not prohibit advertising permitted by subdivision (h) of Section 651.
- (i) The employing or the making use of solicitors.
- (j) Advertising in violation of Section 651.
- (k) Advertising to guarantee any dental hygiene service, or to perform any dental hygiene procedure painlessly. This subdivision shall not prohibit advertising permitted by Section 651.
- (l) The violation of any of the provisions of this division.
- (m) The permitting of any person to operate dental radiographic equipment who has not met the requirements to do so, as determined by the dental hygiene board.
- (n) The clearly excessive administering of drugs or treatment, or the clearly excessive use of treatment procedures, or the clearly excessive use of treatment facilities, as determined by the customary practice and standards of the dental hygiene profession.  
  
Any person who violates this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) or more than six hundred dollars (\$600), or by imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days or more than 180 days, or by both a fine and imprisonment.
- (o) The use of threats or harassment against any patient or licensee for providing evidence in any possible or actual disciplinary action, or other legal action; or the discharge of an employee primarily based on the employee's attempt to comply with the provisions of this chapter or to aid in the compliance.
- (p) Suspension or revocation of a license issued, or discipline imposed, by another state or territory on grounds that would be the basis of discipline in this state.
- (q) The alteration of a patient's record with intent to deceive.
- (r) Unsanitary or unsafe office conditions, as determined by the customary practice and standards of the dental hygiene profession.
- (s) The abandonment of the patient by the licensee, without written notice to the patient that treatment is to be discontinued and before the patient has ample opportunity to secure the services of another registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions and provided the health of the patient is not jeopardized.
- (t) The willful misrepresentation of facts relating to a disciplinary action to the patients of a disciplined licensee.
- (u) Use of fraud in the procurement of any license issued pursuant to this article.
- (v) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of the license.
- (w) The aiding or abetting of a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions to practice dental hygiene in a negligent or incompetent manner.
- (x) The failure to report to the dental hygiene board in writing within seven days any of the following: (1) the death of the licensee's patient during the performance of any dental hygiene procedure; (2) the discovery of the death of a patient whose death is related to a dental hygiene procedure performed by the licensee; or (3) except for a scheduled hospitalization, the removal to a hospital or emergency center for medical treatment for a period exceeding 24 hours of any patient as a result of dental or dental hygiene treatment. Upon receipt of a report pursuant to this subdivision, the dental hygiene board may conduct an inspection of the dental hygiene practice office if the dental hygiene board finds that it is necessary.
- (y) A registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions shall report to the dental hygiene board all deaths occurring in their practice with a copy sent to the dental board if the death occurred while working as an employee in a dental office. A dentist shall report to the dental board all deaths occurring in their

practice with a copy sent to the dental hygiene board if the death was the result of treatment by a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions.

(z) Knowingly making a statement or signing a certificate or other document that falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a fact directly or indirectly related to the practice of dental hygiene.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 6. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1951.** The dental hygiene board may discipline a licensee by placing the licensee on probation under various terms and conditions that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Requiring the licensee to obtain additional training in a remedial education course approved by the dental hygiene board or pass an examination upon completion of training in a remedial education course approved by the dental hygiene board, or both. The examination may be a written or oral examination, or both, and may be a practical or clinical examination, or both, at the option of the dental hygiene board.

(b) Requiring the licensee to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians appointed by the dental hygiene board, if warranted by the physical or mental condition of the licensee. If the dental hygiene board requires the licensee to submit to an examination, the dental hygiene board shall receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians of the licensee's choice.

(c) Restricting or limiting the extent, scope, or type of practice of the licensee.

(d) Requiring restitution of fees to the licensee's patients or payers of services, unless restitution has already been made.

(e) Providing the option of alternative community service in lieu of all or part of a period of suspension in cases other than violations relating to quality of care.

*(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 491, Sec. 7. (SB 534) Effective January 1, 2022.)*

**1952.** It is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this article to do any of the following:

(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist, a controlled substance, as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022.

(b) Use a controlled substance, as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or a dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages or other intoxicating substances, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to themselves, to any person, or the public to the extent that the use impairs the licensee's ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by their license.

(c) Be convicted of a charge of violating any federal statute or rules, or any statute or rule of this state, regulating controlled substances, as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug, as defined in Section 4022, or be convicted of more than one misdemeanor, or any felony, involving the use or consumption of alcohol or drugs, if the conviction is substantially related to the practice authorized by their license.

(1) The record of conviction or a copy certified by the clerk of the court or by the judge in whose court the conviction is had, shall be conclusive evidence of a violation of this section. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section.

(2) The dental hygiene board may order the license suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license, when the time for appeal has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under any provision of the Penal Code, including, but not limited to, Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code, allowing a person to withdraw a plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 42. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1953.** (a) A registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions who performs a service on a patient in a dental office shall identify himself or herself in the patient record by signing his or her name or identification number and initials next to the service performed, and shall date those treatment entries in the record.

(b) A repeated violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1954.** (a) It is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this article to perform, or hold himself or herself out as able to perform, professional services beyond the scope of his or her license and field of competence, as established by his or her

education, experience, and training. This includes, but is not limited to, using an instrument or device in a manner that is not in accordance with the customary standards and practices of the dental hygiene profession.

(b) This section shall not apply to research conducted by accredited dental schools or dental hygiene schools, or to research conducted pursuant to an investigational device exemption issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1955.** (a) (1) A licensee who fails or refuses to comply with a request for a patient's dental or dental hygiene records that is accompanied by that patient's written authorization for release of the records to the dental hygiene board, within 15 days of receiving the request and authorization, shall pay to the dental hygiene board a civil or administrative penalty or fine up to a maximum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per day for each day that the documents have not been produced after the 15th day, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) unless the licensee is unable to provide the documents within this time period for good cause.

(2) A health care facility shall comply with a request for the dental or dental hygiene records of a patient that is accompanied by that patient's written authorization for release of records to the dental hygiene board together with a notice citing this section and describing the penalties for failure to comply with this section. Failure to provide the authorizing patient's dental hygiene records to the dental hygiene board within 30 days of receiving this request, authorization, and notice shall subject the health care facility to a civil or administrative penalty or fine, payable to the dental hygiene board, of up to a maximum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per day for each day that the documents have not been produced after the 30th day, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), unless the health care facility is unable to provide the documents within this time period for good cause. This paragraph shall not require health care facilities to assist the dental hygiene board in obtaining the patient's authorization. The dental hygiene board shall pay the reasonable cost of copying the dental hygiene records.

(b) (1) A licensee who fails or refuses to comply with a court order issued in the enforcement of a subpoena mandating the release of records to the dental hygiene board shall pay to the dental hygiene board a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that the documents have not been produced after the date by which the court order requires the documents to be produced, unless it is determined that the order is unlawful or invalid. Any statute of limitations applicable to the filing of an accusation by the dental hygiene board shall be tolled during the period the licensee is out of compliance with the court order and during any related appeals.

(2) A licensee who fails or refuses to comply with a court order issued in the enforcement of a subpoena mandating the release of records to the dental hygiene board is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine payable to the dental hygiene board not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The fine shall be added to the licensee's renewal fee if it is not paid by the next succeeding renewal date. Any statute of limitations applicable to the filing of an accusation by the dental hygiene board shall be tolled during the period the licensee is out of compliance with the court order and during any related appeals.

(3) A health care facility that fails or refuses to comply with a court order issued in the enforcement of a subpoena mandating the release of patient records to the dental hygiene board, that is accompanied by a notice citing this section and describing the penalties for failure to comply with this section, shall pay to the dental hygiene board a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that the documents have not been produced, up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), after the date by which the court order requires the documents to be produced, unless it is determined that the order is unlawful or invalid. Any statute of limitations applicable to the filing of an accusation by the dental hygiene board against a licensee shall be tolled during the period the health care facility is out of compliance with the court order and during any related appeals.

(4) A health care facility that fails or refuses to comply with a court order, issued in the enforcement of a subpoena, mandating the release of records to the dental hygiene board is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine payable to the dental hygiene board not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Any statute of limitations applicable to the filing of an accusation by the dental hygiene board against a licensee shall be tolled during the period the health care facility is out of compliance with the court order and during any related appeals.

(c) Multiple acts by a licensee in violation of subdivision (b) shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment. Multiple acts by a health care facility in violation of subdivision (b) shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and shall be reported to the State Department of Public Health and shall be considered as grounds for disciplinary action with respect to licensure, including suspension or revocation of the license or permit.

(d) A failure or refusal to comply with a court order issued in the enforcement of a subpoena mandating the release of records to the dental hygiene board constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for suspension or revocation of the person's license.

(e) Imposition of the civil or administrative penalties authorized by this section shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(f) For the purposes of this section, a "health care facility" means a clinic or health care facility licensed or exempt from licensure pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety Code.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 43. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1956.** It is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this article to require, either directly or through an office policy, or knowingly permit the delivery of dental hygiene care that discourages necessary treatment, or permits clearly excessive, incompetent, unnecessary, or grossly negligent treatment, or repeated negligent acts, as determined by the standard of practice in the community.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1957.** (a) A person whose license has been revoked or suspended, who has been placed on probation, or whose license was surrendered pursuant to a stipulated settlement as a condition to avoid a disciplinary administrative hearing, may petition the dental hygiene board for reinstatement or modification of the penalty, including modification or termination of probation, after a period of not less than the following minimum periods have elapsed from the effective date of the decision ordering disciplinary action:

- (1) At least three years for reinstatement of a license revoked for unprofessional conduct or surrendered pursuant to a stipulated settlement as a condition to avoid an administrative disciplinary hearing.
- (2) At least two years for early termination, or modification of a condition, of a probation of three years or more.
- (3) At least one year for modification of a condition, or reinstatement of a license revoked for mental or physical illness, or termination, or modification of a condition, of a probation of less than three years.

(b) The petition shall state any fact required by the dental hygiene board.

(c) The petition may be heard by the dental hygiene board, or the dental hygiene board may assign the petition to an administrative law judge designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code.

(d) In considering reinstatement or modification or penalty, the dental hygiene board or the administrative law judge hearing the petition may consider the following:

- (1) All activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary action was taken.
- (2) The offense for which the petitioner was disciplined.
- (3) The petitioner's activities during the time the license or permit was in good standing.
- (4) The petitioner's rehabilitative efforts, general reputation for truth, and professional ability.

(e) The hearing may be continued from time to time as the dental hygiene board or the administrative law judge as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code finds necessary.

(f) The dental hygiene board or the administrative law judge may impose necessary terms and conditions on the licensee in reinstating a license or permit or modifying a penalty.

(g) A petition shall not be considered while the petitioner is under sentence for any criminal offense, including any period during which the petitioner is on court-imposed probation or parole.

(h) A petition shall not be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against the person.

(i) The dental hygiene board may deny without a hearing or argument any petition filed pursuant to this section within a period of two years from the effective date of the prior decision following a hearing under this section. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to alter Sections 822 and 823.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 44. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1958.** A person, company, or association is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not less than 10 days nor more than one year, or by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), or by both that fine and imprisonment, who does any of the following:

- (a) Assumes the title of "registered dental hygienist," "registered dental hygienist in alternative practice," or "registered dental hygienist in extended functions" or appends the letters "R.D.H.," "R.D.H.A.P.," or "R.D.H.E.F." to the person's name without having had the right to assume the title conferred upon the person through licensure.
- (b) Assumes any title, or appends any letters to the person's name, with the intent to represent falsely that the person has received a dental hygiene degree or a license under this article.

(c) Engages in the practice of dental hygiene without causing to be displayed in a conspicuous place in the person's office the person's license under this article to practice dental hygiene.

(d) Within 10 days after demand is made by the executive officer of the dental hygiene board, fails to furnish to the dental hygiene board the name and address of all persons practicing or assisting in the practice of dental hygiene in the office of the person, company, or association, at any time within 60 days prior to the demand, together with a sworn statement showing under and by what license or authority this person, company, or association and any employees are or have been practicing or assisting in the practice of dental hygiene. This sworn statement shall not be used in any prosecution under this section.

(e) Is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance while engaged in the practice of dental hygiene in actual attendance on patients to an extent that impairs the licensee's ability to conduct the practice of dental hygiene with safety to patients and the public.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 45. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1958.1.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law, with regard to an individual who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code, or the equivalent in another state or territory, under military law, or under federal law, all of the following shall apply:

(1) The dental hygiene board shall deny an application by the individual for licensure pursuant to this article.

(2) If the individual is licensed under this article, the dental hygiene board shall promptly revoke the license of the individual. The dental hygiene board shall not stay the revocation nor place the license on probation.

(3) The dental hygiene board shall not reinstate or reissue the individual's licensure under this article. The dental hygiene board shall not issue a stay of license denial and place the license on probation.

(b) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

(1) An individual who has been relieved under Section 290.5 of the Penal Code of the individual's duty to register as a sex offender, or whose duty to register has otherwise been formally terminated under California law or the law of the jurisdiction that requires the individual's registration as a sex offender.

(2) An individual who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code solely because of a misdemeanor conviction under Section 314 of the Penal Code. However, nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the dental hygiene board from exercising its discretion to discipline a licensee under other provisions of state law based upon the licensee's conviction under Section 314 of the Penal Code.

(3) Any administrative adjudication proceeding under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code that is fully adjudicated prior to January 1, 2013. A petition for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license shall be considered a new proceeding for purposes of this paragraph, and the prohibition against reinstating a license to an individual who is required to register as a sex offender shall be applicable.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 46. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1959.** A person who holds a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended license as a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions under this article may append the letters "R.D.H.," "R.D.H.A.P.," or "R.D.H.E.F.," respectively, to his or her name.

*(Amended by Stats. 2011, Ch. 350, Sec. 13. (SB 943) Effective January 1, 2012.)*

**1960.** For the first offense, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail for not to exceed six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment, and for the second or a subsequent offense is guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) nor more than six thousand dollars (\$6,000), or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, or by both that fine and imprisonment, who does any of the following:

(a) Sells or barter or offers to sell or barter a dental hygiene degree or transcript or a license issued under, or purporting to be issued under, laws regulating licensure of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienists in extended functions.

(b) Purchases or procures by barter a diploma, license, or transcript with intent that it shall be used as evidence of the holder's qualification to practice dental hygiene, or in fraud of the laws regulating the practice of dental hygiene.

(c) With fraudulent intent, makes, attempts to make, counterfeits, or materially alters a diploma, certificate, or transcript.



(d) Uses, or attempts or causes to be used, any diploma, certificate, or transcript that has been purchased, fraudulently issued, counterfeited, or materially altered or in order to procure licensure as a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions.

(e) In an affidavit required of an applicant for an examination or license under this article, willfully makes a false statement in a material regard.

(f) Practices dental hygiene or offers to practice dental hygiene, as defined in this article, either without a license, or when his or her license has been revoked or suspended.

(g) Under any false, assumed or fictitious name, either as an individual, firm, corporation or otherwise, or any name other than the name under which he or she is licensed, practices, advertises, or in any other manner indicates that he or she practices or will practice dental hygiene, except a name specified in a valid permit issued pursuant to Section 1962.

*(Amended by Stats. 2011, Ch. 15, Sec. 10. (AB 109) Effective April 4, 2011. Operative October 1, 2011, by Sec. 636 of Ch. 15, as amended by Stats. 2011, Ch. 39, Sec. 68.)*

**1961.** A person who willfully, under circumstances that cause risk of bodily harm, serious physical or mental illness, or death, practices, attempts to practice, advertises, or holds himself or herself out as practicing dental hygiene without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended license as provided in this article, is guilty of a crime, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year. The remedy provided in this section shall not preclude any other remedy provided by law.

*(Amended by Stats. 2011, Ch. 350, Sec. 14. (SB 943) Effective January 1, 2012.)*

**1962.** (a) An association, partnership, corporation, or group of three or more registered dental hygienists in alternative practice engaging in practice under a name that would otherwise be in violation of Section 1960 may practice under that name if the association, partnership, corporation, or group holds an unexpired, unsuspended, and unrevoked permit issued by the dental hygiene board under this section.

(b) An individual registered dental hygienist in alternative practice or a pair of registered dental hygienists in alternative practice who practice dental hygiene under a name that would otherwise violate Section 1960 may practice under that name if the licensees hold a valid permit issued by the dental hygiene board under this section. The dental hygiene board shall issue a written permit authorizing the holder to use a name specified in the permit in connection with the holder's practice if the dental hygiene board finds all of the following:

(1) The applicant or applicants are duly licensed registered dental hygienists in alternative practice.

(2) The place where the applicant or applicants practice is owned or leased by the applicant or applicants, and the practice conducted at the place is wholly owned and entirely controlled by the applicant or applicants and is an approved area or practice setting pursuant to Section 1926.

(3) The name under which the applicant or applicants propose to operate contains at least one of the following designations: "dental hygiene group," "dental hygiene practice," or "dental hygiene office," contains the family name of one or more of the past, present, or prospective associates, partners, shareholders, or members of the group, and is in conformity with Section 651 and not in violation of subdivisions (i) and (l) of Section 1950.5.

(4) All licensed persons practicing at the location designated in the application hold valid licenses and no charges of unprofessional conduct are pending against any person practicing at that location.

(c) A permit issued under this section shall expire and become invalid unless renewed in the manner provided for in this article for the renewal of permits issued under this article.

(d) A permit issued under this section may be revoked or suspended if the dental hygiene board finds that any requirement for original issuance of a permit is no longer being fulfilled by the permitholder. Proceedings for revocation or suspension shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(e) If charges of unprofessional conduct are filed against the holder of a permit issued under this section, or a member of an association, partnership, group, or corporation to whom a permit has been issued under this section, proceedings shall not be commenced for revocation or suspension of the permit until a final determination of the charges of unprofessional conduct, unless the charges have resulted in revocation or suspension of a license.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 47. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1963.** The dental hygiene board may file a complaint for violation of any part of this article with any court of competent jurisdiction and may, by its officers, counsel, and agents, assist in presenting the law or facts at the trial. The district attorney of each county in

this state shall prosecute all violations of this article in their respective counties in which the violations occur.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 48. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1964.** In addition to the other proceedings provided for in this article, on application of the dental hygiene board, the superior court of any county shall issue an injunction to restrain an unlicensed person from conducting the practice of dental hygiene, as defined in this article.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 49. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1965.** If a person has engaged in or is about to engage in an act that constitutes an offense against this chapter, the superior court of any county, on application of 10 or more persons holding licenses to practice dental hygiene issued under this article, may issue an injunction or other appropriate order restraining that conduct. Proceedings under this section shall be governed by Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 525) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1966.** (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the dental hygiene board seek ways and means to identify and rehabilitate licensees whose competency may be impaired due to abuse of dangerous drugs or alcohol, so that licensees so afflicted may be treated and returned to the practice of dental hygiene in a manner that will not endanger the public health and safety. It is also the intent of the Legislature that the dental hygiene board establish a diversion program as a voluntary alternative approach to traditional disciplinary actions.

(b) One or more diversion evaluation committees shall be established by the dental hygiene board. The dental hygiene board shall establish criteria for the selection of each diversion evaluation committee. Each member of a diversion evaluation committee shall receive per diem and expenses as provided in Section 103.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 50. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1966.1.** (a) The dental hygiene board shall establish criteria for the acceptance, denial, or termination of licensees in a diversion program. Unless ordered by the dental hygiene board as a condition of a licensee's disciplinary probation, only those licensees who have voluntarily requested diversion treatment and supervision by a diversion evaluation committee shall participate in a diversion program.

(b) A licensee who is not the subject of a current investigation may self-refer to the diversion program on a confidential basis, except as provided in subdivision (f).

(c) A licensee under current investigation by the dental hygiene board may also request entry into a diversion program by contacting the dental hygiene board. The dental hygiene board may refer the licensee requesting participation in the program to a diversion evaluation committee for evaluation of eligibility. Prior to authorizing a licensee to enter into the diversion program, the dental hygiene board may require the licensee, while under current investigation for any violations of this article or other violations, to execute a statement of understanding that states that the licensee understands that the licensee's violations of this article or other statutes, that would otherwise be the basis for discipline, may still be investigated and be the subject of disciplinary action.

(d) If the reasons for a current investigation of a licensee are based primarily on the self-administration of any controlled substance or dangerous drugs or alcohol under Section 1951, or the illegal possession, prescription, or nonviolent procurement of any controlled substance or dangerous drugs for self-administration that does not involve actual, direct harm to the public, the dental hygiene board shall close the investigation without further action if the licensee is accepted into the dental hygiene board's diversion program and successfully completes the requirements of the program. If the licensee withdraws or is terminated from the program by a diversion evaluation committee, the investigation shall be reopened and disciplinary action imposed, if warranted, as determined by the dental hygiene board.

(e) Neither acceptance nor participation in the diversion program shall preclude the dental hygiene board from investigating or continuing to investigate, or taking disciplinary action or continuing to take disciplinary action against, any licensee for any unprofessional conduct committed before, during, or after participation in the diversion program.

(f) All licensees shall sign an agreement of understanding that the withdrawal or termination from the diversion program at a time when a diversion evaluation committee determines the licensee presents a threat to the public's health and safety shall result in the utilization by the dental hygiene board of diversion treatment records in disciplinary or criminal proceedings.

(g) Any licensee terminated from the diversion program for failure to comply with program requirements is subject to disciplinary action by the dental hygiene board for acts committed before, during, and after participation in the diversion program. A licensee who has been under investigation by the dental hygiene board and has been terminated from the diversion program by a diversion evaluation committee shall be reported by the diversion evaluation committee to the dental hygiene board.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 51. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1966.2.** Each diversion evaluation committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) To evaluate those licensees who request to participate in the diversion program according to the guidelines prescribed by the dental hygiene board and to consider the recommendations of any licensees designated by the dental hygiene board to serve as consultants on the admission of the licensee to the diversion program.
- (b) To review and designate those treatment facilities to which licensees in a diversion program may be referred.
- (c) To receive and review information concerning a licensee participating in the program.
- (d) To consider in the case of each licensee participating in a program whether the licensee may safely continue or resume the practice of dental hygiene.
- (e) To perform other related duties as the dental hygiene board may by regulation require.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 52. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1966.3.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to public meetings, a diversion evaluation committee may convene in closed session to consider reports pertaining to any licensee requesting or participating in a diversion program. A diversion evaluation committee shall only convene in closed session to the extent that it is necessary to protect the privacy of a licensee.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1966.4.** Each licensee who requests participation in a diversion program shall agree to cooperate with the treatment program designed by a diversion evaluation committee and to bear all costs related to the program, unless the cost is waived by the dental hygiene board. Any failure to comply with the provisions of a treatment program may result in termination of the licensee's participation in a program.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 53. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1966.5.** (a) After a diversion evaluation committee, in its discretion, has determined that a licensee has been rehabilitated and the diversion program is completed, the diversion evaluation committee shall purge and destroy all records pertaining to the licensee's participation in the diversion program.

(b) Except as authorized by subdivision (f) of Section 1966.1, all dental hygiene board and diversion evaluation committee records and records of proceedings pertaining to the treatment of a licensee in a program shall be kept confidential and are not subject to discovery or subpoena.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 54. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

**1966.6.** The dental hygiene board shall provide for the representation of any person making reports to a diversion evaluation committee or the dental hygiene board under this article in any action for defamation for reports or information given to the diversion evaluation committee or the dental hygiene board regarding a licensee's participation in the diversion program.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 55. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.)*