

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1615

H.P. 1069

House of Representatives, April 15, 2025

An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 11, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RANA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTION of
Biddeford, FOLEY of Wells, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot,
President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §18302, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

3 **3-A. Adjunct dentist.** "Adjunct dentist" means an individual who holds a valid
4 adjunct dentist license issued by the board.

5 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §18302, sub-§3-B** is enacted to read:

6 **3-B. Adjunct dentist license.** "Adjunct dentist license" means the authority granted
7 to an individual who is a graduate of a dental school or college, who is not licensed to
8 practice dentistry in this State and who is authorized to practice under the general
9 supervision of a dentist in a board-approved setting in accordance with this chapter.

10 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §18342, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 163, §1, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **1. Dentist license.** Except as provided in section 18347, an applicant for licensure as
13 a dentist must comply with the provisions of section 18341 and must provide:

14 A. Verification of either a doctoral degree in dentistry from a dental program
15 accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation
16 or its successor organization or the educational equivalent of a doctoral degree in
17 dentistry, as determined by the board. If the applicant holds an adjunct dentist license
18 in good standing and provides verification that the applicant has actively practiced
19 during the 3 consecutive years immediately preceding application to the board, that
20 applicant is deemed to be in compliance with this paragraph; and

21 B. Verification of passing all examinations required by the board.

22 **Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §18342, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

23 **7. Adjunct dentist license.** An applicant for an adjunct dentist license must comply
24 with section 18341 and must provide:

25 A. Verification of a degree in dentistry from a dental school or college;

26 B. Verification of passing all examinations required by the board;

27 C. Verification that the applicant will be practicing dentistry in a board-approved
28 setting within the State; and

29 D. A statement from the supervising dentist under section 18371, subsection 5 that
30 demonstrates that the general supervision and control of the services to be performed
31 by the applicant are adequate and that the performance of these services are within the
32 applicant's dental knowledge and skill.

33 **Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §18371, sub-§2, ¶F** is enacted to read:

34 F. An individual with an adjunct dentist license may provide dental services only in
35 the board-approved setting for which the license was issued by the board and if
36 authorized by a written practice agreement under the general supervision of a dentist
37 licensed in this State pursuant to subsection 7.

38 **Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §18371, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 388, §9, is further
39 amended to read:

1 **5. Supervision of dental therapists and adjunct dentists.** A dentist, referred to in
2 this section as the "the supervising dentist," who employs a dental therapist or adjunct
3 dentist shall comply with this subsection.

4 A. A supervising dentist shall arrange for another dentist or specialist to provide any
5 services needed by a patient of a dental therapist or adjunct dentist supervised by that
6 dentist that are beyond the scope of practice of the dental therapist or adjunct dentist
7 and that the supervising dentist is unable to provide.

8 B. The supervising dentist is responsible for all authorized services and procedures
9 performed by the dental therapist pursuant to a written practice agreement executed by
10 the dentist pursuant to section 18377.

11 B-1. The supervising dentist is responsible for all authorized services and procedures
12 performed by the adjunct dentist pursuant to a written practice agreement executed by
13 the dentist pursuant to subsection 7.

14 C. Revisions to a written practice agreement must be documented in a new written
15 practice agreement signed by the supervising dentist and the dental therapist or adjunct
16 dentist.

17 D. A supervising dentist who signs a written practice agreement shall file a copy of
18 the agreement with the board, keep a copy for the dentist's own records and make a
19 copy available to patients of the dental therapist or adjunct dentist upon request.

20 **Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §18371, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

21 **7. Adjunct dentist practice requirements.** An adjunct dentist must comply with the
22 following practice limitations.

23 A. An adjunct dentist may practice under the general supervision of a dentist pursuant
24 to a written practice agreement signed by both parties. A written practice agreement is
25 a signed document that outlines the functions that the adjunct dentist is authorized to
26 perform. An adjunct dentist may practice only under the standing order of the
27 supervising dentist, may provide only care that follows written protocols and may
28 provide only services that the adjunct dentist is authorized to provide by the written
29 practice agreement.

30 B. A written practice agreement between a supervising dentist and an adjunct dentist
31 must include the following elements:

32 (1) The services and procedures and the practice settings for those services and
33 procedures that the adjunct dentist may provide, together with any limitations on
34 those services and procedures;

35 (2) Any age-specific and procedure-specific practice protocols, including case
36 selection criteria, assessment guidelines and imaging frequency;

37 (3) Procedures to be used with patients treated by the adjunct dentist for obtaining
38 informed consent and for creating and maintaining dental records;

39 (4) A plan for managing medical emergencies in each practice setting in which the
40 adjunct dentist provides care;

41 (5) A quality assurance plan for monitoring care, including patient care review,
42 referral follow-up and a quality assurance chart review;

(6) Protocols for administering and dispensing medications, including the specific circumstances under which medications may be administered and dispensed;

(7) Criteria for providing care to patients with specific medical conditions or complex medical histories; and

(8) Specific written protocols, including a plan for providing clinical resources and referrals, governing situations in which the patient requires treatment that exceeds the scope of practice or capabilities of the adjunct dentist.

C. Revisions to a written practice agreement must be documented in a new written practice agreement signed by the supervising dentist and the adjunct dentist.

D. An adjunct dentist shall file a copy of a written practice agreement with the board, keep a copy for the adjunct dentist's own records and make a copy available to patients of the adjunct dentist upon request.

E. An adjunct dentist shall refer patients in accordance with a written practice agreement to another qualified dental or health care professional to receive needed services that exceed the scope of practice of the adjunct dentist.

F. An adjunct dentist who provides services or procedures beyond those authorized in a written practice agreement engages in unprofessional conduct and is subject to discipline pursuant to section 18325.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a new dentist license category, adjunct dentist license, which allows a qualified dentist who lacks the board-determined educational equivalency to a United States doctoral degree in dentistry, such as a dentist trained outside of the United States with a bachelor of dentistry degree, to obtain a license to practice dentistry under the general supervision of a licensed dentist through a written practice agreement signed by both parties. The bill also establishes a pathway to be licensed as a dentist after practicing under an adjunct dentist license for 3 consecutive years in good standing.