MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Document No. 1329
H.P. 996 House of Representatives, March 25, 1983
Speaker laid before the House and referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative Manning of Portland. Cosponsors: Senator Bustin of Kennebec, Senator Gill of Cumberland and Representative Chonko of Topsham.
STATE OF MAINE
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
AN ACT Relating to the Licensing of Dental Radiographers.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
<pre>Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1081, sub-§2, ¶F, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 544, §80, is repealed:</pre>
Sec. 2. 32 MRSA c. 16, sub-c. VII is enacted to read:
SUBCHAPTER VII
DENTAL RADIOGRAPHERS
§1100-I. Definitions
As used in this subchapter, unless the context
otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- 1 l. Dental radiography. "Dental radiography"
 2 means the use of ionizing radiation on the maxilla
 3 and mandible of human beings for diagnostic purposes.
- 2. Direct supervision. "Direct supervision"
 means supervision of a dental radiographer requiring
 that a dentist remain in the dental office while the
 radiographic procedures are being performed.
- 8 3. Licensed dental radiographer. "Licensed den-9 tal radiographer" means a person who practices dental 10 radiography and holds a valid license issued by the 11 board.
- 12 §1100-J. License required; exceptions
- 1. License required. On or before September 1,
 14 1984, it shall be unlawful for any person, not other15 wise authorized by law, to practice dental
 16 radiography without having a current license issued
 17 by the board.
- 2. Medicine, osteopathy, dentistry. Nothing in the provisions of this subchapter may limit, enlarge or affect the practice of persons licensed to practice medicine, osteopathy or dentistry in this State.
- 22 <u>3. Exceptions. The requirement of a license</u> 23 shall not apply to:
- A. Dental hygienists licensed pursuant to subchapter IV;
- 26 B. A resident physician or a student enrolled in and attending a school or college of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry or radiologic technology; or
- 30 C. Any person serving in the United States Armed
 31 Forces or public health service or employed by
 32 the Veterans' Administration or other federal
 33 agency from performing his official duties, pro34 vided that the duties are limited to that service
 35 or employment.
 - §1100-K. Supervision required

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- 1. Supervision. A licensed dental radiographer 2 shall practice dental radiography only under the 3 direct supervision of a dentist. 2. Prohibition. It is unlawful for a dentist to 4 5 allow a licensed dental radiographer in his employment to carry out radiographic procedures except 6 7 under direct supervision. 8 §1100-L. Employment of dental radiographers 9
- 9 1. Dental radiographers; license. On or before
 10 September 1, 1984, it shall be unlawful for a dentist
 11 to allow a person to practice dental radiography in
 12 his employment or under his supervision who does not
 13 hold a license to practice dental radiography issued
 14 by the board or who is otherwise authorized by law to
 15 practice dental radiography.
- 16 §1100-M. Qualifications
- 17 <u>l. Requirements. To qualify for a license to</u> 18 <u>practice dental radiography, an applicant shall meet</u> 19 the following requirements:
- 20 A. Be at least 18 years of age;
- B. Have a high school diploma or its equivalent, as determined by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services; and
- 24 C. Have successfully completed a course of study 25 in dental radiologic technique approved by the 26 board.
- 27 §1100-N. Application
- To apply for a license to practice dental radiography, an applicant shall submit a written application with supporting documents to the board, on forms provided by the board, and shall pay an application fee which shall not exceed \$30.
- 33 <u>§1100-0.</u> Renewal
- 34 <u>1. Term of license; renewal. All licenses to</u> 35 practice dental radiography issued by the board are

valid for 5 years from the date of issuance and may be renewed upon application to the board and payment of a renewal fee which shall not exceed \$50.

§1100-P. Rules

1. Rules. The board may make rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, which are necessary for the implementation of this subchapter. The rules may include, but need not be limited to, licensure requirements, approved courses, application and renewal procedures and fees.

§1100-Q. Disciplinary action

- 1. Suspension; revocation; refusal to issue or renew license. The board may suspend or revoke a license pursuant to Title 5, section 10004. In addition, the board may refuse to issue or renew a license or the Administrative Court may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license of a person issued under this subchapter for any of the following reasons:
 - A. The practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining a license under this subchapter or in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued;
 - B. Habitual intemperance in the use of alcohol or the habitual use of narcotic or hypnotic or other drugs listed as controlled substances by the drug enforcement administration, which use has resulted in the licensed dental radiographer being unable to perform his duties or perform those duties in a manner which would endanger the health or safety of the patients to be served;
 - C. Incompetence in the practice of dental radiography. A licensed dental radiographer shall be deemed incompetent in the practice if he has:
 - (1) Engaged in conduct which evidenced a lack of ability or fitness to discharge the duty owed by him to a client or patient or the general public; or

- 1 (2) Engaged in conduct which evidenced a 2 lack or knowledge, or inability to apply 3 principles or skills to carry out the prac-4 tice for which he is certified; 5 D. Unprofessional conduct. In this unprofessional conduct means the violation of any 6 7 standard of professional behavior which through 8 professional experience has been established in 9 the practice of dental radiography; E. Subject to the limitations of Title 5, chap-
- E. Subject to the limitations of Title 5, chapter 341, conviction of a crime which involves
 dishonesty or false statement or which relates
 directly to the practice of dental radiography,
 or conviction of any crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed; or
- F. Any violation of this chapter or any rule adopted by the board.

§1100-R. Penalties; injunction

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- 1. Penalties. Any person who practices, or holds himself out as authorized to practice, dental radiography in this State without first obtaining a license as required by this subchapter, or after the license has expired or has been suspended or revoked or temporarily suspended or revoked, shall be guilty of a Class E crime.
- 2. Injunction. The State may bring an action in Superior Court to enjoin any person for violating this chapter, regardless of whether proceedings have been or may be instituted in the Administrative Court or whether criminal proceedings have been or may be instituted.

32 STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires that any person who practices dental radiography, not otherwise authorized by law to so practice, be licensed by the Board of Dental Examiners on or before September 1, 1984. The purpose of the bill is to protect the citizens of the State from harmful effects of excessive and improper

1	exposure to ionizing radiation by ensuring that per-
2	sons operating dental equipment emitting ionizing
3 4	radiation have appropriate education, training and supervision.
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