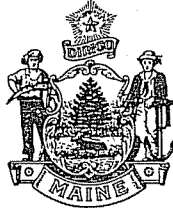


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 419

H.P. 307

House of Representatives, February 10, 2009

**Resolve, To Increase Access to Dental Care in Rural Areas through
Encouraging Distance Learning for Dental Hygienist Training**

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKANE of Newcastle. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator TRAHAN of Lincoln and
Representatives: COTTA of China, DRISCOLL of Westbrook, FLOOD of Winthrop,
NUTTING of Oakland, PERRY of Calais, TREAT of Hallowell, Senators: MARRACHÉ of
Kennebec, SIMPSON of Androscoggin.

1 **Sec. 1. Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of**
2 **Licensing and Registration, Board of Dental Examiners directed to establish**
3 **a new dental hygienist licensing category. Resolved:** That the Department of
4 Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Licensing and Registration, Board of
5 Dental Examiners is directed to establish a new dental hygienist licensing category that
6 will accept alternative educational instruction programs, including qualified distance
7 learning programs, instructional television networks and nontraditional clinical
8 instructors, with the goal of providing students in distant locations across the State access
9 to the training required to be a licensed dental hygienist. The Board of Dental Examiners
10 shall establish the qualifications and scope of practice for this new licensing category,
11 which must include 2 years of experience as a dental assistant, as well as sponsorship
12 from a licensed Maine dentist; and be it further

13 **Sec. 2. Reporting date established. Resolved:** That the Board of Dental
14 Examiners shall report on its progress in establishing the new licensing category under
15 section 1, along with any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on
16 Business, Research and Economic Development by February 1, 2010. The Joint Standing
17 Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development is authorized to submit
18 legislation on this new licensing category to the Second Regular Session of the 124th
19 Legislature.

20

SUMMARY

21 This resolve requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation,
22 Office of Licensing and Registration, Board of Dental Examiners to establish a new
23 dental hygienist licensing category that will accept alternative educational instruction
24 programs, including qualified distance learning programs, instructional television
25 networks and nontraditional clinical instructors, with the goal of providing students in
26 distant locations across the State access to the training required to be a licensed dental
27 hygienist. The Board of Dental Examiners is required to establish the qualifications and
28 scope of practice for this new licensing category, which must include 2 years of
29 experience as a dental assistant as well as sponsorship from a licensed Maine dentist. This
30 resolve also requires the Board of Dental Examiners to report on its progress in
31 establishing the new licensing category to the Joint Standing Committee on Business,
32 Research and Economic Development by February 1, 2010. The joint standing
33 committee is authorized to submit legislation related to this report.