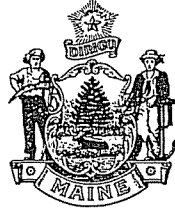


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 421

H.P. 309

House of Representatives, February 10, 2009

An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Licensure Qualifications of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists

Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SMITH of Monmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and
Representative: JONES of Mount Vernon.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1094-K**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 620, Pt. B, §1, is amended
3 to read:

4 **§1094-K. Education and experience**

5 An applicant for licensure under this subchapter as an independent practice dental
6 hygienist must:

7 **1. Bachelor's degree and 2,000 hours experience.** Possess a bachelor's degree
8 from a dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association
9 Commission on Dental Accreditation, or its successor organization, and document one
10 year or 2,000 work hours of clinical practice in a private dental practice ~~during the 2~~
11 ~~years preceding application setting approved by the board;~~ or

12 **2. Associate degree and 6,000 hours experience.** Possess an associate degree from
13 a dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on
14 Dental Accreditation, or its successor organization, and document 3 years or 6,000 work
15 hours of clinical practice in a private dental practice ~~during the 6 years preceding~~
16 ~~application setting approved by the board.~~

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill amends the experience requirements for licensure of independent practice
19 dental hygienists. It makes the initial licensure requirements less stringent, which will
20 broaden the pool of potential qualified applicants and potentially increase access to care
21 for Maine citizens.