

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 937

H.P. 697

House of Representatives, March 8, 2011

An Act To Increase Access to Dental Care in Rural Areas

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKANE of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator THOMAS of Somerset and
Representative: DOW of Waldoboro, Senator: TRAHAN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA c. 16, sub-c. 3-C** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 3-C**

4 **LIMITED PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENIST**

5 **§1094-U. Limited practice dental hygienist**

6 The Board of Dental Examiners shall issue a limited practice dental hygienist license
7 to an individual who meets licensure requirements established by the board.

8 **1. Qualifications.** The board by rule shall establish licensure requirements for a
9 limited practice dental hygienist license that include educational requirements that may
10 be met through any course of study approved by the American Dental Association
11 Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor organization that:

12 A. Allows distance learning with instruction from qualified practitioners;

13 B. Includes nontraditional clinical instruction and clinical training as a dental
14 assistant with a licensed dentist; and

15 C. Involves a number of credit hours equivalent to a 2-year full-time program.

16 **2. Scope of license.** A limited practice dental hygienist license allows a person to
17 provide nontherapeutic, limited preventative care, as established by the board by rule.

18 **3. Fees; license.** An application for a limited practice dental hygienist license must
19 be accompanied by a fee to be determined by the board not to exceed \$175. The board
20 shall issue a license to practice as a limited practice dental hygienist in this State to an
21 individual who has met the licensure requirements. The license must be exhibited
22 publicly at the person's place of employment. The license authorizes practice as a limited
23 practice dental hygienist in this State for the year in which it is issued until the expiration
24 date that appears on the license. On or before January 1st of each odd-numbered year, the
25 limited practice dental hygienist must pay to the board a license renewal fee of not more
26 than \$175, to be determined by the board. A limited practice dental hygienist who has not
27 paid the renewal fee on or before January 1st must be reinstated upon payment of a late
28 fee of not more than \$50, to be determined by the board, if paid before February 1st of the
29 year in which license renewal is due. Failure to be properly licensed by February 1st
30 results in automatic suspension of a limited practice dental hygienist license.
31 Reinstatement may be made, if approved by the board, by payment to the board of a fee
32 determined by the board of not more than \$175. A new applicant who has paid the
33 application fee shall pay the biennial licensure fee if the applicant applies in an odd-
34 numbered year or half the biennial licensure fee if the applicant applies in an even-
35 numbered year.

36 An applicant for a duplicate license granted upon proof of loss of the original shall pay a
37 fee of \$15.

