

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF DENTAL PRACTICE
143 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0143

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PENNY VAILLANCOURT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 30, 2024

Senator Donna Bailey, Senate Chair
Representative Anne Perry, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: Legislative report regarding temporary licensure process

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Dental Practice (“the Board”), please accept this report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services (“the Committee”) as requested in a letter dated May 4, 2023. Specifically, the Committee requested a report back no later than February 1, 2024, its review of its licensure process “...to streamline and shorten the application process for a temporary licensure.”

Since 2016, the Board has provided certain online services including renewal of licensure and most recently launched *initial* online licensing for dental professionals in 2023. Below is a list of *initial* online licensing services that are now available:

- Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
 - Dental Therapy Practice Authority (Including Provisional)
 - Independent Practice Dental Hygiene Practice Authority
 - Public Health Dental Hygienist Authority
 - Local Anesthesia Authority
 - Nitrous Oxide Analgesia Authority
- Denturists
- Expanded Function Dental Assistants
- Dental Radiographers (dental assistants)
- Temporary Licensure (dentists, denturists, dental hygienists)

The Board’s success of *initial* online services is attributed to the dedication of board staff, various stakeholders, and the Committee in identifying statutory changes necessary to remove barriers, create licensure pathways, and streamline scopes of practice to make more efficient the licensing of qualified dental professionals. In 2024, the remaining initial licensure application categories such as resident dentist and sedation permits will also be made available online.

In response to specific improvements to the temporary licensure category, attached is a checklist of items necessary to determine an applicant's minimum qualifications and fitness to practice. I've also attached recent email correspondence from our charitable organization partners with whom board staff has a long-standing history of collaboration.

As noted in the Board's testimony on LD 789, the Board remains committed to continuing to work with charitable organizations and/or individuals who are having difficulty navigating the existing licensure process, especially those seeking to provide charitable care in communities in need such as Washington County.

Thank you for your time and please contact me at either penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov or by phone at (207)287-3333 should you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



Penny Vaillancourt
Executive Director

Encs.

MAINE BOARD OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Application Checklist for Temporary Licensure

TEMPORARY LICENSURE is for an applicant that is **actively licensed as a dentist or dental hygienist** in another jurisdiction. A temporary license issued by the Board is only good for a period of 6 months.

The following is a list of required items when filing an online licensure application. Some of the items can be submitted directly by the applicant, submitted directly from a third party such as an academic institution verifying a degree program, or Board staff verifying passage of certain regional examination scores.

- ☐ Curriculum vitae (resume), including references to verify clinical patient experiences while licensed
- ☐ Current; valid life support certification (**BLS required effective 10/25/2023**)
- ☐ Passing Score on Jurisprudence Examination. Visit link to access the examination:
www.maine.gov/dental/jurisprudence-examinations.html
- ☐ National Practitioner's Data Bank (NPDB) Self-Query Report. NPDB link: www.npdb.hrsa.gov/
- ☐ **Dentist** – Payment of \$271.00 in fees (includes \$21.00 Maine criminal background fee and \$250.00 license fee); If requesting a waiver of the fees, include documentation demonstrating that the purpose of this license is to provide free dental care in conjunction with a charitable nonprofit organization (i.e., letter from the nonprofit organization affirming free dental care).
- ☐ **Dental Hygienist** – Payment of \$171.00 in fees (includes \$21.00 Maine criminal background fee and \$150.00 license fee); If requesting a waiver of the fees, include documentation demonstrating that the purpose of this license is to provide free dental care in conjunction with a charitable nonprofit organization (i.e., letter from the nonprofit organization affirming free dental care).

For more information regarding qualifications for a temporary dentist license or a temporary dental hygiene license please review Board Rules Chapters 2 (Dental Hygiene) and 6 (Dentist) here:
www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/02/chaps02.htm#313

Board Contact Information:

Board of Dental Practice
143 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0143

Telephone: (207) 287-3333
TTY users call Maine relay 711
Fax: (207) 287-8140
Email: dental.board@maine.gov

Website: www.maine.gov/dental

From: [Thomas Michaud](#)
To: [Vaillancourt, Penny](#)
Subject: Thank you!
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:33:23 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Penny!

Many thanks to you and the Maine Board of Dental Practice for helping to make the latest outreach by NYU to Washington County a huge success! During the visit the team saw 220 children in schools and provided education to classrooms!!

The amazing speed with which the Board approved licenses was crucial to this process. Most of the children seen would have gone without services due to the lack of dental providers in our rural county. We hope this was the beginning of reestablishing dental clinics in our area and as always appreciate your partnership.

With thanks,

Tom Michaud
Executive Director, Sunrise Opportunities

From: [Ingram, Kerrie H](#)
To: [Vaillancourt, Penny](#)
Subject: FW: Dental License renewal
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:04:44 AM

From: Tsering Dolkar [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Ingram, Kerrie H <Kerrie.H.Ingram@maine.gov>
Subject: Dental License renewal

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Hi Kerrie,

How are you? Our outreach was a success and that is thanks to you and Penny. We really appreciate expediting the process and always supporting us.

We wanted to request a dental license renewal process for our faculty Dr. Gerald Klaczany. His license expires on **December 31, 2023**.

Please let us know.

Thank you

Best regards,
Tsering Dolkar
Program Administrator
Global Outreach Programs
New York University College of Dentistry
137 East 25th Street, Room 507
New York, NY 10010 USA

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Vaillancourt, Penny

From: Mark Hankinson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 9:31 AM
To: Vaillancourt, Penny
Subject: RE: License Status Update

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Penny,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday weekend. I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate your communication and follow through. It is truly appreciated.

Thanks again,

Mark

From: Vaillancourt, Penny <Penny.Vaillancourt@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Na-Jee Harris <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jude Elgaderi <[REDACTED]>; Bryson Owens <[REDACTED]>;
[REDACTED]; Ingram, Kerrie H <Kerrie.H.Ingram@maine.gov>; Mark Hankinson
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: License Status Update

You don't often get email from penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] **CAUTION** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Dr. Harris,

Please accept this email as an update to your application for full dentist licensure on file with the Board. On December 19th, board staff received from you the completed jurisprudence examination. Unfortunately, state offices were closed on that day, so we were unable to review the item until today. After a review of your application and all submitted materials your application for licensure was **approved**. You should be able view your activated license online now at:

<https://www.pfr.maine.gov/ALMSOnline/ALMSQuery/ShowDetail.aspx?DetailToken=5D66FF8458E093842A005123922445C01C1A9A00BAB8DD9654687A428B00DF36>

Please note that a cover letter and your license will be sent via email as part of the automatic overnight licensing process. Please let us know if you have any additional questions – thank you.

Penny

Penny Vaillancourt, Executive Director
Maine Board of Dental Practice

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From: Vaillancourt, Penny
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 6:27 PM
To: Na-Jee Harris <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jude Elgaderi <[REDACTED]>; Bryson Owens <[REDACTED]>;
[REDACTED]; Ingram, Kerrie H <Kerrie.H.Ingram@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: License Status Update

Good evening Dr. Harris,

Due to the devastating storm that hit Maine earlier this week, state government offices including the Maine Dental Board have been closed since Monday at noon to allow crew members to restore power and repair local roads that were inaccessible during the record level flooding that occurred. However, the good news is that I've heard that power has been restored with hopes of reopening the office tomorrow. At that time, I will reach out to you directly to let you know whether all application materials have been received.

Again, thank you for your patience during this very difficult time and appreciate you reaching out to me directly.

~Penny

Penny Vaillancourt, Executive Director
Maine Board of Dental Practice
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From: Na-Jee Harris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 6:10 PM
To: Vaillancourt, Penny <Penny.Vaillancourt@maine.gov>
Cc: Jude Elgaderi <[REDACTED]>; Bryson Owens <[REDACTED]>;

Subject: License Status Update

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Good Evening Penny,

My name is Na-Jee Harris, I've recently applied for a dental license for Maine via Barton Associates for a locum opportunity starting early January. I was informed to reach out to you directly to check on verification for all documentation that is needed to move forward with the approval process. If there are any additional documents or forms I need to provide please let me know at your earliest convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

My pending license number is: DEN5103

Thanks,

Na-Jee Harris, DMD

General Dentist

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