



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4978

by Rep. Bob Morgan

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 25/9	from Ch. 111, par. 2309
225 ILCS 25/10	from Ch. 111, par. 2310
225 ILCS 25/13	from Ch. 111, par. 2313
225 ILCS 25/16.1	from Ch. 111, par. 2316.1
225 ILCS 25/17.1	

Amends the Illinois Dental Practice Act. In provisions concerning the qualifications of applicants for dental licenses and dental hygienist licenses, provides that each applicant shall present satisfactory evidence that the applicant has passed the integrated National Board Dental Examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and has successfully completed an examination conducted by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS) or the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX). Provides that an applicant who has passed the integrated National Board Dental Examination or the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, respectively, and who has, prior to January 1, 2026, successfully completed an examination conducted by the States Resources for Testing and Assessments, Inc. (SRTA) (formerly, Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.), the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), or the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners (NERB) shall be eligible to apply for licensure. In provisions concerning examinations for dental licensure, provides that both theoretical and psychomotor (rather than practical) examinations shall be of a character to give a fair test of the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. In provisions concerning expanded function dental assistants, provides that a dental assistant may perform certain services if the dental assistant has completed the training requirements for the service or services. Makes other changes. Effective July 1, 2026.

LRB104 16877 AAS 30287 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Dental Practice Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 9, 10, 13, 16.1, and 17.1 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 25/9) (from Ch. 111, par. 2309)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

8 Sec. 9. Qualifications of applicants for dental licenses.

9 The Department shall require that each applicant for a license  
10 to practice dentistry shall:

11 (a) (Blank).

12 (b) Be at least 21 years of age and of good moral  
13 character.

14 (c) (1) Present satisfactory evidence of completion of  
15 dental education by graduation from a dental college or  
16 school in the United States or Canada approved by the  
17 Department. The Department shall not approve any dental  
18 college or school which does not require at least (A) 60  
19 semester hours of collegiate credit or the equivalent in  
20 acceptable subjects from a college or university before  
21 admission, and (B) completion of at least 4 academic years  
22 of instruction or the equivalent in an approved dental  
23 college or school that is accredited by the Commission on

1 Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association;  
2 or

3 (2) Present satisfactory evidence of completion of  
4 dental education by graduation from a dental college or  
5 school outside the United States or Canada and provide  
6 satisfactory evidence that the applicant has: (A)  
7 completed a minimum of 2 academic years of general dental  
8 clinical training and obtained a doctorate of dental  
9 surgery (DDS) or doctorate of dental medicine (DMD) at a  
10 dental college or school in the United States or Canada  
11 approved by the Department; or (B) met the program  
12 requirements approved by rule by the Department.

13 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent  
14 either the Department or any dental college or school from  
15 establishing higher standards than specified in this Act.

16 (d) (Blank).

17 (e) Present satisfactory evidence that the applicant  
18 has passed the integrated National Board Dental  
19 Examination administered by the Joint Commission on  
20 National Dental Examinations and has successfully  
21 completed an examination conducted by ~~one of the following~~  
22 ~~regional testing services:~~ the Central Regional Dental  
23 Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS) or the American Board of  
24 Dental Examiners (ADEX). ~~, the Southern Regional Testing~~  
25 ~~Agency, Inc. (SRTA), the Western Regional Examining Board~~  
26 ~~(WREB), the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments~~

1 ~~(CDCA), or the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies~~  
2 ~~(CITA).~~ An applicant who has passed the integrated  
3 National Board Dental Examination and who has, prior to  
4 January 1, 2026, successfully completed an examination  
5 conducted by the States Resources for Testing and  
6 Assessments, Inc. (SRTA) (formerly, Southern Regional  
7 Testing Agency, Inc.), the Western Regional Examining  
8 Board (WREB), the Commission on Dental Competency  
9 Assessments (CDCA), or the North East Regional Board of  
10 Dental Examiners (NERB) shall be eligible to apply for  
11 licensure. For purposes of this Section, "successfully  
12 completed" means ~~successful completion shall mean~~ that the  
13 applicant has achieved a minimum passing score as  
14 determined by the applicable regional testing service. The  
15 Secretary may suspend a regional testing service under  
16 this subsection (e) if, after proper notice and hearing,  
17 it is established that (i) the integrity of the  
18 examination has been breached so as to make future test  
19 results unreliable or (ii) the test is fundamentally  
20 deficient in testing clinical competency.

21 In determining professional capacity under this Section,  
22 any individual who has not been actively engaged in the  
23 practice of dentistry, has not been a dental student, or has  
24 not been engaged in a formal program of dental education  
25 during the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of an  
26 application may be required to complete such additional

1 testing, training, or remedial education as the Board may deem  
2 necessary in order to establish the applicant's present  
3 capacity to practice dentistry with reasonable judgment,  
4 skill, and safety.

5 (Source: P.A. 102-93, eff. 1-1-22.)

6 (225 ILCS 25/10) (from Ch. 111, par. 2310)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

8 Sec. 10. Examinations for dental licensure. Examination  
9 shall be made in writing in all theoretical subjects. Both  
10 theoretical and psychomotor ~~practical~~ examinations shall be of  
11 a character to give a fair test of the qualifications of the  
12 applicant to practice dentistry. The examination papers and  
13 all grading thereon, and the grading of the practical work,  
14 shall be deemed public documents, and preserved for a period  
15 of not less than 2 years after the Department shall have made  
16 and published its decisions thereon. All examinations shall be  
17 conducted or authorized under fair and wholly impartial  
18 methods.

19 (Source: P.A. 84-365.)

20 (225 ILCS 25/13) (from Ch. 111, par. 2313)

21 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

22 Sec. 13. Qualifications of applicants for dental hygienist  
23 licenses ~~hygienists~~. Every person who desires to obtain a  
24 license as a dental hygienist shall apply to the Department in

1 writing, upon forms prepared and furnished by the Department.  
2 Each application shall contain proof of the particular  
3 qualifications required of the applicant, shall be verified by  
4 the applicant, under oath, and shall be accompanied by the  
5 required examination fee.

6 The Department shall require that every applicant for a  
7 license as a dental hygienist shall:

8 (1) (Blank).

9 (2) Be a graduate of high school or its equivalent.

10 (3) Present satisfactory evidence of having  
11 successfully completed 2 academic years of credit at a  
12 dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on  
13 Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

14 (4) Submit evidence that the applicant holds a  
15 currently valid certification to perform cardiopulmonary  
16 resuscitation. The Department shall adopt rules  
17 establishing criteria for certification in cardiopulmonary  
18 resuscitation. The rules of the Department shall provide  
19 for variances only in instances where the applicant is a  
20 person with a physical disability and therefore unable to  
21 secure such certification.

22 (5) (Blank).

23 (6) Present satisfactory evidence that the applicant  
24 has passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination  
25 administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental  
26 Examinations and has successfully completed an examination

1 conducted by ~~one of the following regional testing~~  
2 ~~services:~~ the Central Regional Dental Testing Service,  
3 Inc. (CRDTS) or the American Board of Dental Examiners  
4 (ADEX). ~~, the Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.~~  
5 ~~(SRTA), the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), or~~  
6 ~~the North East Regional Board (NERB).~~ An applicant who has  
7 passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination  
8 administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental  
9 Examinations and who has, prior to January 1, 2026,  
10 successfully completed an examination conducted by the  
11 States Resources for Testing and Assessments, Inc. (SRTA)  
12 (formerly, Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.), the  
13 Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), the Commission on  
14 Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), or the North East  
15 Regional Board (NERB) shall be eligible to apply for  
16 licensure. For the purposes of this Section, "successfully  
17 completed" ~~means successful completion shall mean~~ that the  
18 applicant has achieved a minimum passing score as  
19 determined by the applicable regional testing service. The  
20 Secretary may suspend a regional testing service under  
21 this item (6) if, after proper notice and hearing, it is  
22 established that (i) the integrity of the examination has  
23 been breached so as to make future test results unreliable  
24 or (ii) the examination is fundamentally deficient in  
25 testing clinical competency.

26 (Source: P.A. 104-151, eff. 1-1-26.)

1 (225 ILCS 25/16.1) (from Ch. 111, par. 2316.1)

2 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

3 Sec. 16.1. Continuing education. The Department shall  
4 promulgate rules of continuing education for persons licensed  
5 under this Act. In establishing rules, the Department shall  
6 require a minimum of 48 hours of study in approved courses for  
7 dentists during each 3-year licensing period and a minimum of  
8 36 hours of study in approved courses for dental hygienists  
9 during each 3-year licensing period.

10 The Department shall approve only courses that are  
11 relevant to the treatment and care of patients, including, but  
12 not limited to, clinical courses in dentistry and dental  
13 hygiene and nonclinical courses such as patient management,  
14 legal and ethical responsibilities, and stress management. The  
15 Department shall allow up to 4 hours of continuing education  
16 credit hours per license renewal period for volunteer hours  
17 spent providing clinical services at, or sponsored by, a  
18 nonprofit community clinic, local or state health department,  
19 or a charity event. Courses shall not be approved in such  
20 subjects as estate and personal financial planning, personal  
21 investments, or personal health. Approved courses may include,  
22 but shall not be limited to, courses that are offered or  
23 sponsored by approved colleges, universities, and hospitals  
24 and by recognized national, State, and local dental and dental  
25 hygiene organizations, such as the Illinois State Dental

1 Society. When offering a continuing education course, whether  
2 at no cost or for a fee, the course provider shall explicitly  
3 disclose that the course is an approved course for continuing  
4 education in the State of Illinois, as provided in this  
5 Section or by the rules adopted by the Department.

6 No license shall be renewed unless the renewal application  
7 is accompanied by an affidavit indicating that the applicant  
8 has completed the required minimum number of hours of  
9 continuing education in approved courses as required by this  
10 Section. The affidavit shall not require a listing of courses.  
11 The affidavit shall be a prima facie evidence that the  
12 applicant has obtained the minimum number of required  
13 continuing education hours in approved courses. The Department  
14 shall not be obligated to conduct random audits or otherwise  
15 independently verify that an applicant has met the continuing  
16 education requirement. The Department, however, may not  
17 conduct random audits of more than 10% of the licensed  
18 dentists and dental hygienists in any one licensing cycle to  
19 verify compliance with continuing education requirements. If  
20 the Department, however, receives a complaint that a licensee  
21 has not completed the required continuing education or if the  
22 Department is investigating another alleged violation of this  
23 Act by a licensee, the Department may demand and shall be  
24 entitled to receive evidence from any licensee of completion  
25 of required continuing education courses for the most recently  
26 completed 3-year licensing period. Evidence of continuing

1 education may include, but is not limited to, canceled checks,  
2 official verification forms of attendance, and continuing  
3 education recording forms, that demonstrate a reasonable  
4 record of attendance. The Board shall determine, in accordance  
5 with rules adopted by the Department, whether a licensee or  
6 applicant has met the continuing education requirements. Any  
7 dentist who holds more than one license under this Act shall be  
8 required to complete only the minimum number of hours of  
9 continuing education required for renewal of a single license.  
10 The Department may provide exemptions from continuing  
11 education requirements.

12 (Source: P.A. 103-425, eff. 1-1-24.)

13 (225 ILCS 25/17.1)

14 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

15 Sec. 17.1. Expanded function dental assistants.

16 (a) A dental assistant who has completed training as  
17 provided in subsection (b) of this Section in all of the  
18 following areas may hold himself or herself out as an expanded  
19 function dental assistant:

20 (1) Taking material or digital scans for final  
21 impressions after completing a training program that  
22 includes either didactic objectives or clinical skills and  
23 functions that demonstrate competency.

24 (2) Performing pulp vitality test after completing a  
25 training program that includes either didactic objectives

1 or clinical skills and functions that demonstrate  
2 competency.

3 (3) Placing, carving, and finishing of amalgam  
4 restorations and placing, packing, and finishing composite  
5 restorations as allowed under Section 17.

6 (3.5) Coronal scaling as allowed under Section 17.

7 (4) Starting the flow of oxygen and monitoring of  
8 nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia as allowed under Section  
9 17.

10 (5) Coronal polishing and pit and fissure sealants as  
11 allowed under Section 17.

12 (6) Intracoronaral temporization of a tooth.

13 All procedures listed in paragraphs (1) through (6) for  
14 dental assistants must be performed under the supervision of a  
15 dentist, requiring the dentist authorizes the procedure,  
16 remains in the dental facility while the procedure is  
17 performed, and approves the work performed by the dental  
18 assistant before dismissal of the patient, but the dentist is  
19 not required to be present at all times in the treatment room.

20 A dental assistant may perform any of the services listed  
21 in paragraphs (1) through (6) if the dental assistant has  
22 completed the training requirements for the service or  
23 services.

24 After the completion of training as provided in subsection  
25 (b) of this Section, an expanded function dental assistant may  
26 perform any of the services listed in this subsection (a)

1 pursuant to the limitations of this Act.

2 (b) Certification and training as an expanded function  
3 dental assistant must be obtained from one of the following  
4 sources: (i) an approved continuing education sponsor; (ii) a  
5 dental assistant training program approved by the Commission  
6 on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or  
7 (iii) a training program approved by the Department.

8 Training required under this subsection (b) must also  
9 include Basic Life Support certification, as described in  
10 Section 16 of this Act. Proof of current certification shall  
11 be kept on file with the supervising dentist.

12 (c) Any procedures listed in subsection (a) that are  
13 performed by an expanded function dental assistant must be  
14 approved by the supervising dentist and examined prior to  
15 dismissal of the patient. The supervising dentist shall be  
16 responsible for all dental services or procedures performed by  
17 the dental assistant.

18 (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to alter  
19 the number of dental assistants that a dentist may supervise  
20 under paragraph (g) of Section 17 of this Act.

21 (e) Nothing in this Act shall: (1) require a dental  
22 assistant to be certified as an expanded function dental  
23 assistant or (2) prevent a dentist from training dental  
24 assistants in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 or  
25 17.1 of this Act or rules pertaining to dental assistant  
26 duties.

1 (Source: P.A. 101-162, eff. 7-26-19; 102-936, eff. 1-1-23.)

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on July  
3 1, 2026.