

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 4, 17, 18, and 18.1 and by adding Sections  
6 13.2 and 13.4 as follows:

7 (225 ILCS 25/4)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

9 Sec. 4. Definitions. As used in this Act:

10 "Address of record" means the designated address recorded  
11 by the Department in the applicant's or licensee's application  
12 file or license file as maintained by the Department's  
13 licensure maintenance unit. It is the duty of the applicant or  
14 licensee to inform the Department of any change of address and  
15 those changes must be made either through the Department's  
16 website or by contacting the Department.

17 "Department" means the Department of Financial and  
18 Professional Regulation.

19 "Secretary" means the Secretary of Financial and  
20 Professional Regulation.

21 "Board" means the Board of Dentistry.

22 "Dentist" means a person who has received a general  
23 license pursuant to subsection ~~paragraph~~ (a) of Section 11 of

1 this Act and who may perform any intraoral and extraoral  
2 procedure required in the practice of dentistry and to whom is  
3 reserved the responsibilities specified in Section 17.

4 "Dental hygienist" means a person who holds a license  
5 under this Act to perform dental services as authorized by  
6 Section 18.

7 "Dental assistant" means an appropriately trained person  
8 who, under the supervision of a dentist, provides dental  
9 services as authorized by Section 17.

10 "Expanded function dental assistant" means a dental  
11 assistant who has completed the training required by Section  
12 17.1 of this Act.

13 "Dental laboratory" means a person, firm, or corporation  
14 which:

15 (i) engages in making, providing, repairing, or  
16 altering dental prosthetic appliances and other artificial  
17 materials and devices which are returned to a dentist for  
18 insertion into the human oral cavity or which come in  
19 contact with its adjacent structures and tissues; and

20 (ii) utilizes or employs a dental technician to  
21 provide such services; and

22 (iii) performs such functions only for a dentist or  
23 dentists.

24 "Supervision" means supervision of a dental hygienist or a  
25 dental assistant requiring that a dentist authorize the  
26 procedure, remain in the dental facility while the procedure

1 is performed, and approve the work performed by the dental  
2 hygienist or dental assistant before dismissal of the patient,  
3 but does not mean that the dentist must be present at all times  
4 in the treatment room.

5 "General supervision" means supervision of a dental  
6 hygienist requiring that the patient be a patient of record,  
7 that the dentist examine the patient in accordance with  
8 Section 18 prior to treatment by the dental hygienist, and  
9 that the dentist authorize the procedures which are being  
10 carried out by a notation in the patient's record, but not  
11 requiring that a dentist be present when the authorized  
12 procedures are being performed. The issuance of a prescription  
13 to a dental laboratory by a dentist does not constitute  
14 general supervision.

15 "Public member" means a person who is not a health  
16 professional. For purposes of board membership, any person  
17 with a significant financial interest in a health service or  
18 profession is not a public member.

19 "Dentistry" means the healing art which is concerned with  
20 the examination, diagnosis, treatment planning, and care of  
21 conditions within the human oral cavity and its adjacent  
22 tissues and structures, as further specified in Section 17.

23 "Branches of dentistry" means the various specialties of  
24 dentistry which, for purposes of this Act, shall be limited to  
25 the following: endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery,  
26 orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry,

1 periodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial  
2 radiology, ~~and~~ dental anesthesiology, oral and maxillofacial  
3 pathology, dental public health, oral medicine, and orofacial  
4 pain.

5 "Specialist" means a dentist who has received a specialty  
6 license pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 11 ~~11(b)~~.

7 "Dental technician" means a person who owns, operates, or  
8 is employed by a dental laboratory and engages in making,  
9 providing, repairing, or altering dental prosthetic appliances  
10 and other artificial materials and devices which are returned  
11 to a dentist for insertion into the human oral cavity or which  
12 come in contact with its adjacent structures and tissues.

13 "Informed consent" means legally valid consent that is  
14 given by a patient or legal guardian, that is recorded in  
15 writing or digitally, that authorizes intervention or  
16 treatment services from the treating dentist, and that  
17 documents agreement to participate in those services and  
18 knowledge of the risks, benefits, and alternatives, including  
19 the decision to withdraw from or decline treatment.

20 "Impaired dentist" or "impaired dental hygienist" means a  
21 dentist or dental hygienist who is unable to practice with  
22 reasonable skill and safety because of a physical or mental  
23 disability as evidenced by a written determination or written  
24 consent based on clinical evidence, including deterioration  
25 through the aging process, loss of motor skills, abuse of  
26 drugs or alcohol, or a psychiatric disorder, of sufficient

1 degree to diminish the person's ability to deliver competent  
2 patient care.

3 "Nurse" means a registered professional nurse, a certified  
4 registered nurse anesthetist licensed as an advanced practice  
5 registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse licensed under  
6 the Nurse Practice Act.

7 "Patient of record", except as provided in Section 17.2,  
8 means a patient for whom the patient's most recent dentist has  
9 obtained a relevant medical and dental history and on whom the  
10 dentist has performed a physical examination within the last  
11 year and evaluated the condition to be treated, including a  
12 review of the patient's most recent x-rays.

13 "Dental responder" means a dentist or dental hygienist who  
14 is appropriately certified in disaster preparedness,  
15 immunizations, and dental humanitarian medical response  
16 consistent with the Society of Disaster Medicine and Public  
17 Health and training certified by the National Incident  
18 Management System or the National Disaster Life Support  
19 Foundation.

20 "Mobile dental van or portable dental unit" means any  
21 self-contained or portable dental unit in which dentistry is  
22 practiced that can be moved, towed, or transported from one  
23 location to another in order to establish a location where  
24 dental services can be provided.

25 "Public health dental hygienist" means a hygienist who  
26 holds a valid license to practice in the State, has 2 years of

1 full-time clinical experience or an equivalent of 4,000 hours  
2 of clinical experience, and has completed at least 42 clock  
3 hours of additional structured courses in dental education in  
4 advanced areas specific to public health dentistry.

5 "Public health setting" means a federally qualified health  
6 center; a federal, State, or local public health facility;  
7 Head Start; a special supplemental nutrition program for  
8 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) facility; a certified  
9 school-based health center or school-based oral health  
10 program; a prison; or a long-term care facility.

11 "Public health supervision" means the supervision of a  
12 public health dental hygienist by a licensed dentist who has a  
13 written public health supervision agreement with that public  
14 health dental hygienist while working in an approved facility  
15 or program that allows the public health dental hygienist to  
16 treat patients, without a dentist first examining the patient  
17 and being present in the facility during treatment, (1) who  
18 are eligible for Medicaid or (2) who are uninsured or whose  
19 household income is not greater than 300% of the federal  
20 poverty level.

21 "Teledentistry" means the use of telehealth systems and  
22 methodologies in dentistry and includes patient diagnosis,  
23 treatment planning, care, and education delivery for a patient  
24 of record using synchronous and asynchronous communications  
25 under an Illinois licensed dentist's authority as provided  
26 under this Act.

1 "Moderate sedation" means a drug-induced depression of  
2 consciousness during which: (1) patients respond purposefully  
3 to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light  
4 tactile stimulation; (2) no interventions are required to  
5 maintain a patient's airway and spontaneous ventilation is  
6 adequate; and (3) cardiovascular function is usually  
7 maintained.

8 "Deep sedation" means a drug-induced depression of  
9 consciousness during which: (1) patients cannot be easily  
10 aroused, but respond purposefully following repeated or  
11 painful stimulation; (2) the ability to independently maintain  
12 ventilatory function may be impaired; (3) patients may require  
13 assistance in maintaining airways and spontaneous ventilation  
14 may be inadequate; and (4) cardiovascular function is usually  
15 maintained.

16 "General anesthesia" means a drug-induced loss of  
17 consciousness during which: (1) patients are not arousable,  
18 even by painful stimulation; (2) the ability to independently  
19 maintain ventilatory function is often impaired; (3) patients  
20 often require assistance in maintaining airways and positive  
21 pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed  
22 spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of  
23 neuromuscular function; and (4) cardiovascular function may be  
24 impaired.

25 "Venipuncture" means the puncture of a vein as part of a  
26 medical procedure, typically to withdraw a blood sample or for

1 an intravenous catheter for the administration of medication  
2 or fluids.

3 "Enteral route of administration" means administration of  
4 a drug that is absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract or  
5 through oral, rectal, or sublingual mucosa.

6 "Parenteral route of administration" means administration  
7 of a drug by which the drug bypasses the gastrointestinal  
8 tract through intramuscular, intravenous, intranasal,  
9 submucosal, subcutaneous, or intraosseous methods.

10 (Source: P.A. 102-93, eff. 1-1-22; 102-588, eff. 8-20-21;  
11 102-936, eff. 1-1-23; 103-425, eff. 1-1-24; 103-431, eff.  
12 1-1-24; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-628, eff. 7-1-24; 103-902,  
13 eff. 8-9-24; revised 10-10-24.)

14 (225 ILCS 25/13.2 new)

15 Sec. 13.2. Practice of license-pending general dentists.

16 (a) An applicant for licensure as general dentist under  
17 this Act may obtain employment as a license-pending general  
18 dentist and practice under the delegation of a licensed  
19 general dentist. An applicant may be employed as a  
20 license-pending general dentist if all of the following  
21 criteria are met:

22 (1) the applicant has completed and passed the  
23 Department-approved licensure examination and presents to  
24 the employer an official written notification indicating  
25 successful passage of the licensure examination;

1           (2) the applicant has completed and submitted to the  
2           Department an application for a general dentist license  
3           under this Act; and

4           (3) the applicant has submitted the required licensure  
5           fee.

6           (b) An applicant's authorization to practice under this  
7           Section shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the  
8           following:

9           (1) receipt of a general dentist license from the  
10           Department;

11           (2) notification from the Department that the  
12           applicant's application for licensure has been denied;

13           (3) a request by the Department that the applicant  
14           terminate practicing as a license-pending general dentist  
15           until an official decision is made by the Department to  
16           grant or deny a general dentist license to the applicant;

17           or

18           (4) 6 months elapsing since the official date of the  
19           applicant's passage of the licensure examination, as  
20           specified on the formal written notification provided to  
21           the applicant upon passage of the examination. The 6-month  
22           period may be extended by the Department by rule.

23           (225 ILCS 25/13.4 new)

24           Sec. 13.4. Practice of license-pending dental hygienists.

25           (a) An applicant for licensure as a dental hygienist under

1 this Act may obtain employment as a license-pending dental  
2 hygienist and practice under the delegation of a licensed  
3 general dentist. An individual may be employed as a  
4 license-pending dental hygienist if all of the following  
5 criteria are met:

6 (1) the applicant has completed and passed the  
7 Department-approved licensure examination and presents to  
8 the employer an official written notification indicating  
9 successful passage of the licensure examination;

10 (2) the applicant has completed and submitted to the  
11 Department an application for a dental hygienist license  
12 under this Act; and

13 (3) the applicant has submitted the required licensure  
14 fee.

15 (b) An applicant's authorization to practice under this  
16 Section shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the  
17 following:

18 (1) receipt of a dental hygienist license from the  
19 Department;

20 (2) notification from the Department that the  
21 applicant's application for licensure has been denied;

22 (3) a request by the Department that the applicant  
23 terminate practicing as a license-pending dental hygienist  
24 until an official decision is made by the Department to  
25 grant or deny a dental hygienist license to the applicant;

26 or

1           (4) 6 months elapsing since the official date of the  
2           applicant's passage of the licensure examination, as  
3           specified on the formal written notification provided to  
4           the applicant upon passage of the examination. The 6-month  
5           period may be extended by the Department by rule.

6           (225 ILCS 25/17)

7           (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

8           Sec. 17. Acts constituting the practice of dentistry. A  
9           person practices dentistry, within the meaning of this Act:

10           (1) Who represents himself or herself as being able to  
11           diagnose or diagnoses, treats, prescribes, or operates for  
12           any disease, pain, deformity, deficiency, injury, or  
13           physical condition of the human tooth, teeth, alveolar  
14           process, gums, or jaw; or

15           (2) Who is a manager, proprietor, operator, or  
16           conductor of a business where dental operations are  
17           performed; or

18           (3) Who performs dental operations of any kind; or

19           (4) Who uses an X-Ray machine or X-Ray films for  
20           dental diagnostic purposes; or

21           (5) Who extracts a human tooth or teeth, or corrects  
22           or attempts to correct malpositions of the human teeth or  
23           jaws; or

24           (6) Who offers or undertakes, by any means or method,  
25           to diagnose, treat, or remove stains, calculus, and

1 bonding materials from human teeth or jaws; or

2 (7) Who uses or administers local or general  
3 anesthetics in the treatment of dental or oral diseases or  
4 in any preparation incident to a dental operation of any  
5 kind or character; or

6 (8) Who takes material or digital scans for final  
7 impressions of the human tooth, teeth, or jaws or performs  
8 any phase of any operation incident to the replacement of  
9 a part of a tooth, a tooth, teeth, or associated tissues by  
10 means of a filling, a crown, a bridge, a denture, or other  
11 appliance; or

12 (9) Who offers to furnish, supply, construct,  
13 reproduce, or repair, or who furnishes, supplies,  
14 constructs, reproduces, or repairs, prosthetic dentures,  
15 bridges, or other substitutes for natural teeth to the  
16 user or prospective user thereof; or

17 (10) Who instructs students on clinical matters or  
18 performs any clinical operation included in the curricula  
19 of recognized dental schools and colleges; or

20 (11) Who takes material or digital scans for final  
21 impressions of human teeth or places his or her hands in  
22 the mouth of any person for the purpose of applying teeth  
23 whitening materials, or who takes impressions of human  
24 teeth or places his or her hands in the mouth of any person  
25 for the purpose of assisting in the application of teeth  
26 whitening materials. A person does not practice dentistry

1           when he or she discloses to the consumer that he or she is  
2           not licensed as a dentist under this Act and (i) discusses  
3           the use of teeth whitening materials with a consumer  
4           purchasing these materials; (ii) provides instruction on  
5           the use of teeth whitening materials with a consumer  
6           purchasing these materials; or (iii) provides appropriate  
7           equipment on-site to the consumer for the consumer to  
8           self-apply teeth whitening materials.

9           The fact that any person engages in or performs, or offers  
10          to engage in or perform, any of the practices, acts, or  
11          operations set forth in this Section, shall be prima facie  
12          evidence that such person is engaged in the practice of  
13          dentistry.

14          The following practices, acts, and operations, however,  
15          are exempt from the operation of this Act:

16                 (a) The rendering of dental relief in emergency cases  
17                 in the practice of his or her profession by a physician or  
18                 surgeon, licensed as such under the laws of this State,  
19                 unless he or she undertakes to reproduce or reproduces  
20                 lost parts of the human teeth in the mouth or to restore or  
21                 replace lost or missing teeth in the mouth; or

22                 (b) The practice of dentistry in the discharge of  
23                 their official duties by dentists in any branch of the  
24                 Armed Services of the United States, the United States  
25                 Public Health Service, or the United States Veterans  
26                 Administration; or

1           (c) The practice of dentistry by students in their  
2 course of study in dental schools or colleges approved by  
3 the Department, when acting under the direction and  
4 supervision of dentists acting as instructors; or

5           (d) The practice of dentistry by clinical instructors  
6 in the course of their teaching duties in dental schools  
7 or colleges approved by the Department:

8           (i) when acting under the direction and  
9 supervision of dentists, provided that such clinical  
10 instructors have instructed continuously in this State  
11 since January 1, 1986; or

12           (ii) when holding the rank of full professor at  
13 such approved dental school or college and possessing  
14 a current valid license or authorization to practice  
15 dentistry in another country; or

16           (e) The practice of dentistry by licensed dentists of  
17 other states or countries at meetings of the Illinois  
18 State Dental Society or component parts thereof, alumni  
19 meetings of dental colleges, or any other like dental  
20 organizations, while appearing as clinicians; or

21           (f) The use of X-Ray machines for exposing X-Ray films  
22 of dental or oral tissues by dental hygienists or dental  
23 assistants; or

24           (g) The performance of any dental service by a dental  
25 assistant, if such service is performed under the  
26 supervision and full responsibility of a dentist. In

1 addition, after being authorized by a dentist, a dental  
2 assistant may, for the purpose of eliminating pain or  
3 discomfort, remove loose, broken, or irritating  
4 orthodontic appliances on a patient of record.

5 For purposes of this paragraph (g), "dental service"  
6 is defined to mean any intraoral procedure or act which  
7 shall be prescribed by rule or regulation of the  
8 Department. "Dental service", however, shall not include:

9 (1) Any and all diagnosis of or prescription for  
10 treatment of disease, pain, deformity, deficiency,  
11 injury, or physical condition of the human teeth or  
12 jaws, or adjacent structures.

13 (2) Removal of, restoration of, or addition to the  
14 hard or soft tissues of the oral cavity, except for the  
15 placing, carving, and finishing of amalgam  
16 restorations and placing, packing, and finishing  
17 composite restorations by dental assistants who have  
18 had additional formal education and certification.

19 A dental assistant may place, carve, and finish  
20 amalgam restorations, place, pack, and finish  
21 composite restorations, and place interim restorations  
22 if he or she (A) has successfully completed a  
23 structured training program as described in item (2)  
24 of subsection (g) provided by an educational  
25 institution accredited by the Commission on Dental  
26 Accreditation, such as a dental school or dental

1 hygiene or dental assistant program, or (B) has at  
2 least 4,000 hours of direct clinical patient care  
3 experience and has successfully completed a structured  
4 training program as described in item (2) of  
5 subsection (g) provided by a statewide dental  
6 association, approved by the Department to provide  
7 continuing education, that has developed and conducted  
8 training programs for expanded functions for dental  
9 assistants or hygienists. The training program must:  
10 (i) include a minimum of 16 hours of didactic study and  
11 14 hours of clinical manikin instruction; all training  
12 programs shall include areas of study in nomenclature,  
13 caries classifications, oral anatomy, periodontium,  
14 basic occlusion, instrumentations, pulp protection  
15 liners and bases, dental materials, matrix and wedge  
16 techniques, amalgam placement and carving, rubber dam  
17 clamp placement, and rubber dam placement and removal;  
18 (ii) include an outcome assessment examination that  
19 demonstrates competency; (iii) require the supervising  
20 dentist to observe and approve the completion of 8  
21 amalgam or composite restorations; and (iv) issue a  
22 certificate of completion of the training program,  
23 which must be kept on file at the dental office and be  
24 made available to the Department upon request. A  
25 dental assistant must have successfully completed an  
26 approved coronal polishing and dental sealant course

1 prior to taking the amalgam and composite restoration  
2 course.

3 A dentist utilizing dental assistants shall not  
4 supervise more than 4 dental assistants at any one  
5 time for placing, carving, and finishing of amalgam  
6 restorations or for placing, packing, and finishing  
7 composite restorations.

8 (3) Any and all correction of malformation of  
9 teeth or of the jaws.

10 (4) Administration of anesthetics, except for  
11 monitoring of nitrous oxide, moderate sedation, deep  
12 sedation, and general anesthetic as provided in  
13 Section 8.1 of this Act, that may be performed only  
14 after successful completion of a training program  
15 approved by the Department. A dentist utilizing dental  
16 assistants shall not supervise more than 4 dental  
17 assistants at any one time for the monitoring of  
18 nitrous oxide.

19 (5) Removal of calculus from human teeth.

20 (6) Taking of material or digital scans for final  
21 impressions for the fabrication of prosthetic  
22 appliances, crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, or other  
23 restorative or replacement dentistry.

24 (7) The operative procedure of dental hygiene  
25 consisting of oral prophylactic procedures, except for  
26 coronal polishing and pit and fissure sealants, which

1           may be performed by a dental assistant who has  
2           successfully completed a training program approved by  
3           the Department. Dental assistants may perform coronal  
4           polishing under the following circumstances: (i) the  
5           coronal polishing shall be limited to polishing the  
6           clinical crown of the tooth and existing restorations,  
7           supragingivally; (ii) the dental assistant performing  
8           the coronal polishing shall be limited to the use of  
9           rotary instruments using a rubber cup or brush  
10          polishing method (air polishing is not permitted); and  
11          (iii) the supervising dentist shall not supervise more  
12          than 4 dental assistants at any one time for the task  
13          of coronal polishing or pit and fissure sealants.

14                 In addition to coronal polishing and pit and  
15                 fissure sealants as described in this item (7), a  
16                 dental assistant who has at least 2,000 hours of  
17                 direct clinical patient care experience and who has  
18                 successfully completed a structured training program  
19                 provided by (1) an educational institution including,  
20                 but not limited to, a dental school or dental hygiene  
21                 or dental assistant program, (2) a continuing  
22                 education provider approved by the Department, or (3)  
23                 a statewide dental or dental hygienist association  
24                 that has developed and conducted a training program  
25                 for expanded functions for dental assistants or  
26                 hygienists may perform: (A) coronal scaling above the

1 gum line, supragingivally, on the clinical crown of  
2 the tooth only on patients 17 years of age or younger  
3 who have an absence of periodontal disease and who are  
4 not medically compromised or individuals with special  
5 needs and (B) intracoronal temporization of a tooth.  
6 The training program must: (I) include a minimum of 32  
7 hours of instruction in both didactic and clinical  
8 manikin or human subject instruction; all training  
9 programs shall include areas of study in dental  
10 anatomy, public health dentistry, medical history,  
11 dental emergencies, and managing the pediatric  
12 patient; (II) include an outcome assessment  
13 examination that demonstrates competency; (III)  
14 require the supervising dentist to observe and approve  
15 the completion of 6 full mouth supragingival scaling  
16 procedures unless the training was received as part of  
17 a Commission on Dental Accreditation approved dental  
18 assistant program; and (IV) issue a certificate of  
19 completion of the training program, which must be kept  
20 on file at the dental office and be made available to  
21 the Department upon request. A dental assistant must  
22 have successfully completed an approved coronal  
23 polishing course prior to taking the coronal scaling  
24 course. A dental assistant performing these functions  
25 shall be limited to the use of hand instruments only.  
26 In addition, coronal scaling as described in this

1 paragraph shall only be utilized on patients who are  
2 eligible for Medicaid, who are uninsured, or whose  
3 household income is not greater than 300% of the  
4 federal poverty level. A dentist may not supervise  
5 more than 2 dental assistants at any one time for the  
6 task of coronal scaling. ~~This paragraph is inoperative  
7 on and after January 1, 2026.~~

8 The limitations on the number of dental assistants a  
9 dentist may supervise contained in items (2), (4), and (7)  
10 of this paragraph (g) mean a limit of 4 total dental  
11 assistants or dental hygienists doing expanded functions  
12 covered by these Sections being supervised by one dentist;  
13 or

14 (h) The practice of dentistry by an individual who:

15 (i) has applied in writing to the Department, in  
16 form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for  
17 a general dental license and has complied with all  
18 provisions of Section 9 of this Act, except for the  
19 passage of the examination specified in subsection (e)  
20 of Section 9 of this Act; or

21 (ii) has applied in writing to the Department, in  
22 form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for  
23 a temporary dental license and has complied with all  
24 provisions of subsection (c) of Section 11 of this  
25 Act; and

26 (iii) has been accepted or appointed for specialty

1 or residency training by a hospital situated in this  
2 State; or

3 (iv) has been accepted or appointed for specialty  
4 training in an approved dental program situated in  
5 this State; or

6 (v) has been accepted or appointed for specialty  
7 training in a dental public health agency situated in  
8 this State.

9 The applicant shall be permitted to practice dentistry  
10 for a period of 3 months from the starting date of the  
11 program, unless authorized in writing by the Department to  
12 continue such practice for a period specified in writing  
13 by the Department.

14 The applicant shall only be entitled to perform such  
15 acts as may be prescribed by and incidental to his or her  
16 program of residency or specialty training and shall not  
17 otherwise engage in the practice of dentistry in this  
18 State.

19 The authority to practice shall terminate immediately  
20 upon:

21 (1) the decision of the Department that the  
22 applicant has failed the examination; or

23 (2) denial of licensure by the Department; or

24 (3) withdrawal of the application.

25 (Source: P.A. 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-936, eff. 1-1-23;  
26 103-425, eff. 1-1-24; 103-431, eff. 1-1-24; 103-605, eff.

1 7-1-24; 103-628, eff. 7-1-24.)

2 (225 ILCS 25/18) (from Ch. 111, par. 2318)

3 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

4 Sec. 18. Acts constituting the practice of dental hygiene;  
5 limitations.

6 (a) A person practices dental hygiene within the meaning  
7 of this Act when he or she performs the following acts under  
8 the supervision of a dentist:

9 (i) the operative procedure of dental hygiene,  
10 consisting of oral prophylactic procedures;

11 (ii) the exposure and processing of X-Ray films of the  
12 teeth and surrounding structures;

13 (iii) the application to the surfaces of the teeth or  
14 gums of chemical compounds designed to be desensitizing  
15 agents or effective agents in the prevention of dental  
16 caries or periodontal disease;

17 (iv) all services which may be performed by a dental  
18 assistant as specified by rule pursuant to Section 17, and  
19 a dental hygienist may engage in the placing, carving, and  
20 finishing of amalgam restorations only after obtaining  
21 formal education and certification as determined by the  
22 Department;

23 (v) administration and monitoring of nitrous oxide  
24 upon successful completion of a training program approved  
25 by the Department;

1           (vi) administration of local anesthetics upon  
2 successful completion of a training program approved by  
3 the Department; and

4           (vii) such other procedures and acts as shall be  
5 prescribed by rule or regulation of the Department.

6           (b) A dental hygienist may be employed or engaged only:

7                 (1) by a dentist;

8                 (2) by a federal, State, county, or municipal agency  
9 or institution;

10                (3) by a public or private school; or

11                (4) by a public clinic operating under the direction  
12 of a hospital or federal, State, county, municipal, or  
13 other public agency or institution.

14           (c) When employed or engaged in the office of a dentist, a  
15 dental hygienist may perform, under general supervision, those  
16 procedures found in items (i) through (iv) of subsection (a)  
17 of this Section, provided the patient has been examined by the  
18 dentist within one year of the provision of dental hygiene  
19 services, the dentist has approved the dental hygiene services  
20 by a notation in the patient's record and the patient has been  
21 notified that the dentist may be out of the office during the  
22 provision of dental hygiene services.

23           (d) If a patient of record is unable to travel to a dental  
24 office because of illness, infirmity, or imprisonment, a  
25 dental hygienist may perform, under the general supervision of  
26 a dentist, those procedures found in items (i) through (iv) of

1 subsection (a) of this Section, provided the patient is  
2 located in a long-term care facility licensed by the State of  
3 Illinois, a mental health or developmental disability  
4 facility, or a State or federal prison. The dentist shall  
5 either personally examine and diagnose the patient or utilize  
6 approved teledentistry communication methods and determine  
7 which services are necessary to be performed, which shall be  
8 contained in an order to the hygienist and a notation in the  
9 patient's record. Such order must be implemented within 45  
10 days of its issuance; except when a patient is located within a  
11 State or federal prison, then the order must be implemented  
12 within 180 days of its issuance, and an updated medical  
13 history and observation of oral conditions must be performed  
14 by the hygienist immediately prior to beginning the procedures  
15 to ensure that the patient's health has not changed in any  
16 manner to warrant a reexamination by the dentist.

17 (e) School-based oral health care, consisting of and  
18 limited to oral prophylactic procedures, sealants, and  
19 fluoride treatments, may be provided by a dental hygienist  
20 under the general supervision of a dentist. A dental hygienist  
21 may not provide other dental hygiene treatment in a  
22 school-based setting, including but not limited to  
23 administration or monitoring of nitrous oxide or  
24 administration of local anesthetics. The school-based  
25 procedures may be performed provided the patient is located at  
26 a public or private school and the program is being conducted

1 by a State, county or local public health department  
2 initiative or in conjunction with a dental school or dental  
3 hygiene program. The dentist shall personally examine and  
4 diagnose the patient and determine which services are  
5 necessary to be performed, which shall be contained in an  
6 order to the hygienist and a notation in the patient's record.  
7 Any such order for sealants must be implemented within 120  
8 days after its issuance. Any such order for oral prophylactic  
9 procedures or fluoride treatments must be implemented within  
10 180 days after its issuance. An updated medical history and  
11 observation of oral conditions must be performed by the  
12 hygienist immediately prior to beginning the procedures to  
13 ensure that the patient's health has not changed in any manner  
14 to warrant a reexamination by the dentist.

15 (f) Without the supervision of a dentist, a dental  
16 hygienist may perform dental health education functions,  
17 including instruction in proper oral health care and dental  
18 hygiene in, for example, a school setting, a long-term care  
19 facility, and a health fair. In addition, a dental hygienist  
20 may record case histories and oral conditions observed at any  
21 time prior to a clinical exam by a dentist.

22 (g) The number of dental hygienists practicing in a dental  
23 office shall not exceed, at any one time, 4 times the number of  
24 dentists practicing in the office at the time.

25 (h) A dental hygienist who is certified as a public health  
26 dental hygienist may provide services to patients: (1) who are

1 eligible for Medicaid or (2) who are uninsured and whose  
2 household income is not greater than 300% of the federal  
3 poverty level. A public health dental hygienist may perform  
4 oral assessments, perform screenings, and provide educational  
5 and preventative services as provided in subsection (b) of  
6 Section 18.1 of this Act. The public health dental hygienist  
7 may not administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide, or  
8 place, carve, or finish amalgam restorations or provide  
9 periodontal therapy under this exception. Each patient must  
10 sign a consent form that acknowledges that the care received  
11 does not take the place of a regular dental examination. The  
12 public health dental hygienist must provide the patient or  
13 guardian a written referral to a dentist for assessment of the  
14 need for further dental care at the time of treatment. Any  
15 indication or observation of a condition that could warrant  
16 the need for urgent attention must be reported immediately to  
17 the supervising dentist for appropriate assessment and  
18 treatment.

19 ~~This subsection (h) is inoperative on and after January 1,~~  
20 ~~2026.~~

21 (i) A dental hygienist performing procedures listed in  
22 paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) of Section 17.1  
23 must be under the supervision of a dentist, requiring the  
24 dentist authorizes the procedure, remains in the dental  
25 facility while the procedure is performed, and approves the  
26 work performed by the dental hygienist before dismissal of the

1 patient, but the dentist is not required to be present at all  
2 times in the treatment room.

3 (j) A dental hygienist may perform actions described in  
4 paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 17.1 under the  
5 general supervision of a dentist as described in this Section.  
6 (Source: P.A. 102-936, eff. 1-1-23; 103-431, eff. 1-1-24.)

7 (225 ILCS 25/18.1)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

9 Sec. 18.1. Public health dental supervision  
10 responsibilities.

11 (a) When working together in a public health supervision  
12 relationship, dentists and public health dental hygienists  
13 shall enter into a public health supervision agreement. The  
14 dentist providing public health supervision must:

15 (1) be available to provide an appropriate level of  
16 contact, communication, collaboration, and consultation  
17 with the public health dental hygienist and must meet  
18 in-person with the public health dental hygienist at least  
19 quarterly for review and consultation;

20 (2) have specific standing orders or policy guidelines  
21 for procedures that are to be carried out for each  
22 location or program, although the dentist need not be  
23 present when the procedures are being performed;

24 (3) provide for the patient's additional necessary  
25 care in consultation with the public health dental

1           hygienist;

2                 (4) file agreements and notifications as required; and

3                 (5) include procedures for creating and maintaining  
4           dental records, including protocols for transmission of  
5           all records between the public health dental hygienist and  
6           the dentist following each treatment, which shall include  
7           a notation regarding procedures authorized by the dentist  
8           and performed by the public health dental hygienist and  
9           the location where those records are to be kept.

10           Each dentist and hygienist who enters into a public health  
11           supervision agreement must document and maintain a copy of any  
12           change or termination of that agreement.

13           Dental records shall be owned and maintained by the  
14           supervising dentist for all patients treated under public  
15           health supervision, unless the supervising dentist is an  
16           employee of a public health clinic or federally qualified  
17           health center, in which case the public health clinic or  
18           federally qualified health center shall maintain the records.

19           If a dentist ceases to be employed or contracted by the  
20           facility, the dentist shall notify the facility administrator  
21           that the public health supervision agreement is no longer in  
22           effect. A new public health supervision agreement is required  
23           for the public health dental hygienist to continue treating  
24           patients under public health supervision.

25           A dentist entering into an agreement under this Section  
26           may supervise and enter into agreements for public health

1 supervision with 4 public health dental hygienists. This shall  
2 be in addition to the limit of 4 dental hygienists per dentist  
3 set forth in subsection (g) of Section 18 of this Act.

4 (b) A public health dental hygienist providing services  
5 under public health supervision may perform only those duties  
6 within the accepted scope of practice of dental hygiene, as  
7 follows:

8 (1) the operative procedures of dental hygiene,  
9 consisting of oral prophylactic procedures, including  
10 prophylactic cleanings, application of fluoride, and  
11 placement of sealants;

12 (2) the exposure and processing of x-ray films of the  
13 teeth and surrounding structures; and

14 (3) such other procedures and acts as shall be  
15 prescribed by rule of the Department.

16 Any patient treated under this subsection (b) must be  
17 examined by a dentist before additional services can be  
18 provided by a public health dental hygienist. However, if the  
19 supervising dentist, after consultation with the public health  
20 hygienist, determines that time is needed to complete an  
21 approved treatment plan on a patient eligible under this  
22 Section, then the dentist may instruct the hygienist to  
23 complete the remaining services prior to an oral examination  
24 by the dentist. Such instruction by the dentist to the  
25 hygienist shall be noted in the patient's records. Any  
26 services performed under this exception must be scheduled in a

1 timely manner and shall not occur more than 30 days after the  
2 first appointment date.

3 (c) A public health dental hygienist providing services  
4 under public health supervision must:

5 (1) provide to the patient, parent, or guardian a  
6 written plan for referral or an agreement for follow-up  
7 that records all conditions observed that should be called  
8 to the attention of a dentist for proper diagnosis;

9 (2) have each patient sign a permission slip or  
10 consent form that informs them that the service to be  
11 received does not take the place of regular dental  
12 checkups at a dental office and is meant for people who  
13 otherwise would not have access to the service;

14 (3) inform each patient who may require further dental  
15 services of that need;

16 (4) maintain an appropriate level of contact and  
17 communication with the dentist providing public health  
18 supervision; and

19 (5) complete an additional 4 hours of continuing  
20 education in areas specific to public health dentistry  
21 yearly.

22 (d) Each public health dental hygienist who has rendered  
23 services under subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this Section  
24 must complete a summary report at the completion of a program  
25 or, in the case of an ongoing program, at least annually. The  
26 report must be completed in the manner specified by the

1 Department of Public Health Oral Health Section including  
2 information about each location where the public health dental  
3 hygienist has rendered these services. The public health  
4 dental hygienist must submit the form to the dentist providing  
5 supervision for his or her signature before sending it to the  
6 Division. The Department of Public Health Oral Health Section  
7 shall compile and publicize public health dental hygienist  
8 service data annually.

9 (e) Public health dental hygienists providing services  
10 under public health supervision may be compensated for their  
11 work by salary, honoraria, and other mechanisms by the  
12 employing or sponsoring entity. Nothing in this Act shall  
13 preclude the entity that employs or sponsors a public health  
14 dental hygienist from seeking payment, reimbursement, or other  
15 source of funding for the services provided.

16 (e-5) A patient who is provided services under a  
17 supervision agreement by a public health dental hygienist as  
18 described in this Section does not need to receive a physical  
19 examination from a dentist prior to treatment if the public  
20 health dental hygienist consults with the supervising dentist  
21 prior to performing the teledentistry service.

22 ~~(f) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2026.~~

23 (Source: P.A. 103-431, eff. 1-1-24; 103-902, eff. 8-9-24.)

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
25 becoming law.