

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1524

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Section 1632 of, and to repeal Sections 1630 and 1631 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to dentistry.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1524, as introduced, Hayashi. Dentistry: examination requirements.

The Dental Practice Act provides for the licensing and regulation of dentists and associated professions by the Dental Board of California. Existing law requires an applicant for a license to practice dentistry to complete various examinations, including the National Board Dental Examination, an examination in California law and ethics developed by the board, and a clinical and written examination administered either by the board or the Western Regional Examining Board.

This bill would abolish the clinical and written examination administered by the board. The bill would instead replace that examination with an assessment process in which an applicant is assessed while enrolled at an in-state dental school utilizing uniform standards of minimal clinical experiences and competencies and at the end of his or her dental school program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1630 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is repealed.

3 ~~1630. The examination by the board of applicants for a license
4 to practice dentistry in this State shall be sufficiently thorough to
5 test the fitness of the applicant to practice dentistry, and both
6 questions and answers shall be written in the English language.~~

7 SEC. 2. Section 1631 of the Business and Professions Code is
8 repealed.

9 ~~1631. The subjects in which the applicant shall be examined
10 shall be those subjects as the board may from time to time
11 prescribe. However, the subjects of examination shall be selected
12 in accordance with the trend of dental education in California as
13 that trend is determined, from time to time by the curricula of the
14 dental colleges in California approved by the Dental Board of
15 California, and no examination shall be given on any subject which
16 is not then, at the time of the determination, being currently taught
17 in those approved dental colleges. In the event of any changes in
18 the list of examination subjects, all approved dental schools in the
19 United States shall be notified, by the executive officer of the
20 board, at least two years in advance of the effective date of any
21 change or changes in subjects. Each applicant, at the time of filing
22 an application to take any examination hereunder, shall be given
23 a list of the subjects of the examination for which he or she is
24 making application.~~

25 SEC. 3. Section 1632 of the Business and Professions Code is
26 amended to read:

27 1632. (a) The board shall require each applicant to successfully
28 complete the written examinations of the National Board Dental
29 Examination of the Joint Commission on National Dental
30 Examinations.

31 (b) The board shall require each applicant to successfully
32 complete an examination in California law and ethics developed
33 and administered by the board. The board shall provide a separate
34 application for this examination. Applicants shall submit this
35 application *and required fee* to the board in order to take this
36 examination. In addition to the aforementioned application, the
37 only other requirement for taking this examination shall be
38 certification from the dean of the qualifying dental school attended

1 by the applicant that the applicant has graduated, or will graduate,
2 or is expected to graduate. Applicants who submit completed
3 applications and certification from the dean at least 15 days prior
4 to a scheduled examination shall be scheduled to take the
5 examination. Successful results of the examination shall, as
6 established by board regulation, remain valid for two years from
7 the date that the applicant is notified of having passed the
8 examination.

9 (c) Except as otherwise provided in Section 1632.5, the board
10 shall require each applicant to have taken and received a passing
11 score on one of the following:

12 (1) ~~A clinical and written examination developed and~~
13 ~~administered by the board.~~ *A portfolio assessment of the applicant's*
14 *fitness to practice dentistry while the applicant is enrolled in a*
15 *dental school program at a board-approved school located in*
16 *California. This assessment shall utilize uniform standards of*
17 *minimal clinical experiences and competencies. The applicant*
18 *shall pass a final assessment at the end of his or her dental school*
19 *program.*

20 (2) A clinical and written examination administered by the
21 Western Regional Examining Board, which board shall determine
22 the passing score for that examination.

23 (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 1628, the board
24 is authorized to do either of the following:

25 (1) Approve an application for examination from, and to
26 examine an applicant who is enrolled in, but has not yet graduated
27 from, a reputable dental school approved by the board.

28 (2) Accept the results of an examination described in paragraph
29 (2) of subdivision (c) submitted by an applicant who was enrolled
30 in, but had not graduated from, a reputable dental school approved
31 by the board at the time the examination was administered.

32 In either case, the board shall require the dean of that school or
33 his or her delegate to furnish satisfactory proof that the applicant
34 will graduate within one year of the date the examination was
35 administered.