

Senate Bill No. 1202

CHAPTER 331

An act to amend Sections 1905, 1917, 1917.1, 1931, 1941, and 1944 of, and to add Sections 1902.3, 1917.3, 1926.1, 1926.2, 1926.3, 1926.4, and 1942 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to dentistry.

[Approved by Governor September 14, 2012. Filed with
Secretary of State September 14, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1202, Leno. Dental hygienists.

Existing law, the Dental Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions by the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (committee) within the Dental Board of California. Existing law authorizes the committee to appoint an executive officer to perform duties delegated by the committee.

(1) The committee performs various functions, including, but not limited to, the evaluation of all registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions educational programs that apply for approval. Under existing law, any dental hygiene program accredited by and in good standing with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (commission) is required to be approved by the committee. Existing law authorizes the committee to withdraw or revoke a dental hygiene educational program approval if the program has been placed on probation by the commission.

This bill would eliminate the good standing requirement and would instead authorize any dental hygiene program accredited by the commission to be approved by the committee. The bill would authorize the committee to withdraw or revoke program approval if the commission intends to withdraw or has withdrawn approval.

(2) Under existing law, the committee is required to grant a registered dental hygienist license to any person meeting certain requirements, including the completion of a specified educational program, satisfactory performance on various related examinations, and the submission of a completed application and the payment of required fees.

This bill would additionally require an applicant for licensure as a registered dental hygienist to satisfactorily complete committee-approved instruction in gingival soft tissue curettage, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, and local anesthesia. The bill would authorize the committee to issue a special permit to a registered dental hygienist licensed in another state authorizing him or her to teach in a dental hygiene college without being licensed by this state if certain requirements are met, including, but not

limited to, the completion of educational requirements and the payment of an application fee, subject to a biennial renewal fee.

(3) Existing law authorizes the committee to grant a license as a registered dental hygienist to an applicant who has not taken the specified clinical examination, if the applicant submits certain information to the committee, including, but not limited to, proof that the applicant has been in clinical practice as a registered dental hygienist or has been a full-time faculty member in a specified program for at least 5 years preceding the date of the application and proof that the applicant has not been subject to disciplinary action by another state where he or she is or was previously licensed as a registered dental hygienist or dental hygienist.

This bill would require that proof of prior experience to have been obtained at least 5 years immediately preceding the applicant's date of application and would expand that proof relating to disciplinary action to include any other state where the applicant was previously issued any professional or vocational license.

(4) Except as specified, existing law prohibits an agency in the department, including the committee, on the basis of an applicant's failure to successfully complete prior examinations, from imposing any additional limitations or requirements on any applicant who wishes to participate in subsequent examinations.

This bill would prohibit an examinee for a registered dental hygiene license who either fails to pass the clinical examination after 3 attempts or fails to pass the clinical examination because he or she imposed gross trauma on a patient from being eligible for further reexamination until the examinee completes specified remedial education.

(5) Existing law requires the committee to grant a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice license to any person meeting certain requirements, including satisfactory performance on a specified examination, the submission of an application, and the payment of application fees. Under existing law, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may perform specified functions and procedures in residences of the homebound, schools, residential facilities, and dental health professional shortage areas.

This bill would require a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice to register his or her place or places of practice, within a specified timeframe, with the executive officer. The bill would require a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice to receive permission from the committee, subject to a biennial renewal fee, to have an additional place of practice. The bill would authorize a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice to operate a mobile dental hygiene clinic under certain circumstances if various requirements are met, including the payment of a fee not to exceed \$250, pursuant to regulations adopted by the committee.

(6) Under existing law, if a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice provides dental hygiene services to a patient 18 months or more after the first date that he or she provided services to the patient, he or she is required to obtain written verification, including a written prescription for dental hygiene services, issued by a dentist or physician and surgeon

licensed to practice in this state. Existing law provides that a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice who provides those services in violation of these provisions has engaged in unprofessional conduct and that requires the committee to seek an injunction against him or her. Existing law provides circumstances under which the committee may revoke or suspend a license to practice dental hygiene.

This bill would instead authorize the committee to seek an injunction under those circumstances and specify that a violation by a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice of the requirement to obtain a prescription, as specified above, before providing those services is reason for the committee to revoke or suspend his or her license.

(7) Under existing law, the committee is required to establish by resolution the amount of the fees, subject to respective maximum fee amounts established by existing law, that relate to the licensing of a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and a registered dental hygienist in extended functions subject to certain limitations.

This bill would increase the respective maximum fee amounts within which the committee shall establish fee amounts for an original license and the biennial renewal fee for such a license, and would also increase the maximum fee amount for curriculum review and site evaluation for specified educational programs, as specified. The bill would define the term “extramural dental facility” and also establish a fee for certification of licensure and registration of an extramural dental facility.

(8) Existing law declares it is the intent of the Legislature that the committee grant or renew approval of only those educational programs for, among others, a registered dental hygienist that continuously maintain a high quality standard of instruction.

This bill would instead require the committee to grant or renew approval of only those educational programs that meet the standard described above and, where appropriate, meet the minimum standards set by the commission or an equivalent body, as determined by the committee. The bill would require a new educational program for registered dental hygienists, as defined, to also submit a feasibility study demonstrating a need for a new educational program and would require a new educational program to apply to the committee for specified approval prior to seeking initial accreditation from the commission or an equivalent body, as determined by the committee.

(9) This bill would make various technical, nonsubstantive, and conforming changes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1902.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1902.3. A registered dental hygienist licensed in another state may teach in a dental hygiene college without being licensed in this state if he or she

has a special permit. The committee may issue a special permit to practice dental hygiene in a discipline at a dental hygiene college in this state to any person who submits an application and satisfies all of the following eligibility requirements:

(a) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having a pending contract with a California dental hygiene college approved by the committee as a full-time or part-time professor, associate professor, assistant professor, faculty member, or instructor.

(b) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having graduated from a dental hygiene college approved by the committee.

(c) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having been certified as a diplomate of a specialty committee or, in lieu thereof, establishing his or her qualifications to take a specialty committee examination or furnishing satisfactory evidence of having completed an advanced educational program in a discipline from a dental hygiene college approved by the committee.

(d) Furnishing satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed an examination in California law and ethics developed and administered by the committee.

(e) Paying an application fee, subject to a biennial renewal fee, as provided by Section 1944.

SEC. 2. Section 1905 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1905. (a) The committee shall perform the following functions:

(1) Evaluate all registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienist in extended functions educational programs that apply for approval and grant or deny approval of those applications in accordance with regulations adopted by the committee. Any such educational programs approved by the dental board on or before June 30, 2009, shall be deemed approved by the committee. Any dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation may be approved.

(2) Withdraw or revoke its prior approval of a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions educational program in accordance with regulations adopted by the committee. The committee may withdraw or revoke a dental hygiene program approval if the Commission on Dental Accreditation has indicated an intent to withdraw approval or has withdrawn approval.

(3) Review and evaluate all registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienist in extended functions applications for licensure to ascertain whether the applicant meets the appropriate licensing requirements specified by statute and regulations, maintain application records, cashier application fees, issue and renew licenses, and perform any other tasks that are incidental to the application and licensure processes.

(4) Determine the appropriate type of license examination consistent with the provisions of this article, and develop or cause to be developed and

administer examinations in accordance with regulations adopted by the committee.

(5) Determine the amount of fees assessed under this article, not to exceed the actual cost.

(6) Determine and enforce the continuing education requirements specified in Section 1936.1.

(7) Deny, suspend, or revoke a license under this article, or otherwise enforce the provisions of this article. Any such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the committee shall have all of the powers granted therein.

(8) Make recommendations to the dental board regarding dental hygiene scope of practice issues.

(9) Adopt, amend, and revoke rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this article, including the amount of required supervision by a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions of a registered dental assistant.

(b) The committee may employ employees and examiners that it deems necessary to carry out its functions and responsibilities under this article.

SEC. 3. Section 1917 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1917. The committee shall grant initial licensure as a registered dental hygienist to a person who satisfies all of the following requirements:

(a) Completion of an educational program for registered dental hygienists, approved by the committee, accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and conducted by a degree-granting, postsecondary institution.

(b) Satisfactory performance on the state clinical examination, or satisfactory completion of the dental hygiene examination given by the Western Regional Examining Board or any other clinical dental hygiene examination approved by the committee.

(c) Satisfactory completion of the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination.

(d) Satisfactory completion of the examination in California law and ethics as prescribed by the committee.

(e) Submission of a completed application form and all fees required by the committee.

(f) Satisfactory completion of committee-approved instruction in gingival soft tissue curettage, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, and local anesthesia.

SEC. 4. Section 1917.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1917.1. (a) The committee may grant a license as a registered dental hygienist to an applicant who has not taken a clinical examination before the committee, if the applicant submits all of the following to the committee:

(1) A completed application form and all fees required by the committee.

(2) Proof of a current license as a registered dental hygienist issued by another state that is not revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted.

(3) Proof that the applicant has been in clinical practice as a registered dental hygienist or has been a full-time faculty member in an accredited dental hygiene education program for a minimum of 750 hours per year for at least five years immediately preceding the date of his or her application under this section. The clinical practice requirement shall be deemed met if the applicant provides proof of at least three years of clinical practice and commits to completing the remaining two years of clinical practice by filing with the committee a copy of a pending contract to practice dental hygiene in any of the following facilities:

(A) A primary care clinic licensed under subdivision (a) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) A primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code.

(C) A clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system.

(D) A clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county's role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(4) Satisfactory performance on a California law and ethics examination and any examination that may be required by the committee.

(5) Proof that the applicant has not been subject to disciplinary action by any state in which he or she is or has been previously issued any professional or vocational license. If the applicant has been subject to disciplinary action, the committee shall review that action to determine if it warrants refusal to issue a license to the applicant.

(6) Proof of graduation from a school of dental hygiene accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

(7) Proof of satisfactory completion of the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination and of a state clinical examination, regional clinical licensure examination, or any other clinical dental hygiene examination approved by the committee.

(8) Proof that the applicant has not failed the state clinical examination, the examination given by the Western Regional Examining Board, or any other clinical dental hygiene examination approved by the committee for licensure to practice dental hygiene under this chapter more than once or once within five years prior to the date of his or her application for a license under this section.

(9) Documentation of completion of a minimum of 25 units of continuing education earned in the two years preceding application, including completion of any continuing education requirements imposed by the committee on registered dental hygienists licensed in this state at the time of application.

(10) Any other information as specified by the committee to the extent that it is required of applicants for licensure by examination under this article.

(b) The committee may periodically request verification of compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), and may revoke

the license upon a finding that the employment requirement or any other requirement of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) has not been met.

(c) The committee shall provide in the application packet to each out-of-state dental hygienist pursuant to this section the following information:

(1) The location of dental manpower shortage areas in the state.

(2) Any not-for-profit clinics, public hospitals, and accredited dental hygiene education programs seeking to contract with licensees for dental hygiene service delivery or training purposes.

(d) The committee shall review the impact of this section on the availability of actively practicing registered dental hygienists in California and report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2012. The report shall include a separate section providing data specific to registered dental hygienists who intend to fulfill the alternative clinical practice requirements of subdivision (a). The report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(1) The number of applicants from other states who have sought licensure.

(2) The number of registered dental hygienists from other states licensed pursuant to this section, the number of licenses not granted, and the reason why the license was not granted.

(3) The practice location of registered dental hygienists licensed pursuant to this section. In identifying a registered dental hygienist's location of practice, the committee shall use medical service study areas or other appropriate geographic descriptions for regions of the state.

(4) The number of registered dental hygienists licensed pursuant to this section who establish a practice in a rural area or in an area designated as having a shortage of practicing registered dental hygienists or no registered dental hygienists or in a safety net facility identified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

(5) The length of time registered dental hygienists licensed pursuant to this section practiced in the reported location.

SEC. 5. Section 1917.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1917.3. Notwithstanding Section 135, an examinee for a registered dental hygienist license who either fails to pass the clinical examination required by Section 1917 after three attempts or fails to pass the clinical examination as a result of a single incidence of imposing gross trauma on a patient shall not be eligible for further reexamination until the examinee has successfully completed remedial education at an approved dental hygiene program or a comparable organization approved by the committee.

SEC. 6. Section 1926.1 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1926.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may operate a mobile dental hygiene clinic provided by his or her property and casualty insurer as a temporary substitute site for the practice registered by him or her pursuant to Section 1926.3, if both of the following requirements are met:

(a) The licensee's registered place of practice has been rendered and remains unusable due to loss or calamity.

(b) The licensee's insurer registers the mobile dental hygiene clinic with the committee in compliance with Section 1926.3.

SEC. 7. Section 1926.2 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1926.2. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may operate one mobile dental hygiene clinic registered as a dental hygiene office or facility. The owner or operator of the mobile dental hygiene clinic or unit shall be registered and operated in accordance with regulations established by the committee, which regulations shall not be designed to prevent or lessen competition in service areas, and shall pay the fees described in Section 1944.

(b) A mobile service unit, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1765.105 of the Health and Safety Code, and a mobile unit operated by an entity that is exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (b), (c), or (h) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, are exempt from this article and Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 1658). Notwithstanding this exemption, the owner or operator of the mobile unit shall notify the committee within 60 days of the date on which dental hygiene services are first delivered in the mobile unit, or the date on which the mobile unit's application pursuant to Section 1765.130 of the Health and Safety Code is approved, whichever is earlier.

(c) A licensee practicing in a mobile unit described in subdivision (b) is not subject to subdivision (a) as to that mobile unit.

SEC. 8. Section 1926.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1926.3. Every person who is now or hereafter licensed as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice in this state shall register with the executive officer, on forms prescribed by the committee, his or her place of practice, or, if he or she has more than one place of practice pursuant to Section 1926.4, all of the places of practice. If he or she has no place of practice, he or she shall so notify the executive officer. A person licensed by the committee shall register with the executive officer within 30 days after the date of the issuance of his or her license as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.

SEC. 9. Section 1926.4 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1926.4. When a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice desires to have more than one place of practice, he or she shall, prior to the opening of the additional office, apply to the committee, pay the fee required by Section 1944, and obtain permission in writing from the committee to have the additional place of practice, subject to a biennial renewal fee described in Section 1944.

SEC. 10. Section 1931 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1931. (a) (1) A dental hygienist in alternative practice may provide services to a patient without obtaining written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state.

(2) If the dental hygienist in alternative practice provides services to a patient 18 months or more after the first date that he or she provides services to a patient, he or she shall obtain written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state. The verification shall include a prescription for dental hygiene services as described in subdivision (b).

(b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may provide dental hygiene services for a patient who presents to the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice a written prescription for dental hygiene services issued by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state. The prescription shall be valid for a time period based on the dentist's or physician and surgeon's professional judgment, but not to exceed two years from the date it was issued.

(c) (1) The committee may seek to obtain an injunction against any registered dental hygienist in alternative practice who provides services pursuant to this section, if the committee has reasonable cause to believe that the services are being provided to a patient who has not received a prescription for those services from a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state.

(2) Providing services pursuant to this section without obtaining a prescription in accordance with subdivision (b) shall constitute unprofessional conduct on the part of the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and reason for the committee to revoke or suspend the license of the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to Section 1947.

SEC. 11. Section 1941 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1941. (a) The committee shall grant or renew approval of only those educational programs for a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions that continuously maintain a high quality standard of instruction and, where appropriate, meet the minimum standards set by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or an equivalent body, as determined by the committee.

(b) A new educational program for registered dental hygienists shall submit a feasibility study demonstrating a need for a new educational program and shall apply for approval from the committee prior to seeking approval for initial accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or an equivalent body, as determined by the committee. The committee may approve, provisionally approve, or deny approval of any such new educational program.

(c) For purposes of this section, a new educational program for registered dental hygienists means a program provided by a college or institution of

higher education that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and that has as its primary purpose providing college level courses leading to an associate or higher degree, that is either affiliated with or conducted by a dental school approved by the dental board, or that is accredited to offer college level or college parallel programs by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or an equivalent body, as determined by the committee.

SEC. 12. Section 1942 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1942. (a) As used in this article “extramural dental facility” means any clinical facility that has contracted with an approved dental hygiene educational program for instruction in dental hygiene, that exists outside or beyond the walls, boundaries, or precincts of the primary campus of the approved program, and in which dental hygiene services are rendered.

(b) An approved dental hygiene educational program shall register an extramural dental facility with the committee. That registration shall be accompanied by information supplied by the dental hygiene program pertaining to faculty supervision, scope of treatment to be rendered, name and location of the facility, date on which the operation will commence, discipline of which the instruction is a part, and a brief description of the equipment and facilities available. The foregoing information shall be supplemented by a copy of the agreement between the approved dental hygiene educational program or parent university, and the affiliated institution establishing the contractual relationship. Any change in the information initially provided to the committee shall be communicated to the committee.

SEC. 13. Section 1944 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1944. (a) The committee shall establish by resolution the amount of the fees that relate to the licensing of a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and a registered dental hygienist in extended functions. The fees established by board resolution in effect on June 30, 2009, as they relate to the licensure of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions, shall remain in effect until modified by the committee. The fees are subject to the following limitations:

(1) The application fee for an original license and the fee for issuance of an original license shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(2) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(3) For third- and fourth-year dental students, the fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(4) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in extended functions shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(5) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall not exceed the actual cost of administering the examination.

(6) The biennial renewal fee shall not exceed one hundred sixty dollars (\$160).

(7) The delinquency fee shall not exceed one-half of the renewal fee. Any delinquent license may be restored only upon payment of all fees, including the delinquency fee, and compliance with all other applicable requirements of this article.

(8) The fee for issuance of a duplicate license to replace one that is lost or destroyed, or in the event of a name change, shall not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) or one-half of the renewal fee, whichever is greater.

(9) The fee for certification of licensure shall not exceed one-half of the renewal fee.

(10) The fee for each curriculum review and site evaluation for educational programs for dental hygienists who are not accredited by a committee-approved agency shall not exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100).

(11) The fee for each review of courses required for licensure that are not accredited by a committee-approved agency, the Council for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, or the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

(12) The initial application and biennial fee for a provider of continuing education shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(13) The amount of fees payable in connection with permits issued under Section 1962 is as follows:

(A) The initial permit fee is an amount equal to the renewal fee for the applicant's license to practice dental hygiene in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which the permit is issued.

(B) If the permit will expire less than one year after its issuance, then the initial permit fee is an amount equal to 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which the permit is issued.

(b) The renewal and delinquency fees shall be fixed by the committee by resolution at not more than the current amount of the renewal fee for a license to practice under this article nor less than five dollars (\$5).

(c) Fees fixed by the committee by resolution pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the approval of the Office of Administrative Law.

(d) Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be collected by the committee and deposited into the State Dental Hygiene Fund, which is hereby created. All money in this fund shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, be used to implement the provisions of this article.

(e) No fees or charges other than those listed in this section shall be levied by the committee in connection with the licensure of registered dental

hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienists in extended functions.

(f) The fee for registration of an extramural dental facility shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(g) The fee for registration of a mobile dental hygiene unit shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

(h) The biennial renewal fee for a mobile dental hygiene unit shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(i) The fee for an additional office permit shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(j) The biennial renewal fee for an additional office as described in Section 1926.4 shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(k) The initial application and biennial special permit fee is an amount equal to the biennial renewal fee specified in paragraph (6) of subdivision (a).

(l) The fees in this section shall not exceed an amount sufficient to cover the reasonable regulatory cost of carrying out the provisions of this article.