
Health Care Committee

SSB 5327

Brief Description: Clarifying the scope of practice of a dental hygienist.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, Thibaudeau and Parlette).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Adds the placement of antimicrobials to the licensed dental hygienists' scope of practice.

Hearing Date: 3/20/03

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Dental hygienists are regulated by the Secretary of Health. They may perform dental services and operations under the supervision of a dentist including removing deposits and stains from the surfaces of teeth, applying topical preventative agents, and polishing and smoothing restorations. With an endorsement from the Department of Health, dental hygienists may apply sealants and fluoride varnishes in community-based sealant programs.

Summary of Bill:

Licensed dental hygienists may apply antimicrobials in addition to the other services that they are authorized to provide. Licensed dental hygienists acting under the supervision of a licensed dentist are added to the definition of practitioner— for purposes of regulating prescription drugs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.