
HOUSE BILL 1441

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Sawyer, Appleton, Gregerson, Robinson, and S. Hunt

1 AN ACT Relating to dental health services in tribal settings;
2 amending RCW 18.29.180, 18.32.030, and 18.260.110; adding a new
3 section to chapter 18.350 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.09
4 RCW; and adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that American
7 Indians and Alaska Natives have very limited access to health care
8 services and are disproportionately affected by oral health
9 disparities. These disparities are directly attributed to the lack of
10 dental health professionals in Indian communities. This has caused a
11 serious access issue and backlog of dental treatment among American
12 Indians and Alaska Natives. The legislature also finds that tribal
13 leaders face a significant challenge in recruiting dental health
14 professionals to work in Indian communities that results in further
15 challenges in ensuring oral health care for tribal members.

16 (2) The legislature finds further that there is a strong history
17 of government-to-government efforts with tribes in Washington to
18 improve oral health among tribal members and to reduce the
19 disproportionate number of American Indians and Alaska Natives
20 affected by oral disease. One of the goals in the 2010-2013 American
21 Indian health care delivery plan developed jointly by the department

1 of health and the American Indian health commission is to improve the
2 oral health of tribal members and the ability of tribes to provide
3 comprehensive dental services in their communities. A critical
4 objective to achieving that goal is "to explore options for the use
5 of trained/certified expanded function personnel in order to increase
6 oral health care services in tribal communities."

7 (3) The legislature finds further that sovereign tribal
8 governments are in the best position to determine which strategies
9 can effectively extend the ability of dental health professionals to
10 provide care for children and others at risk of oral disease and
11 increase access to oral health care for tribal members. The
12 legislature therefore intends to authorize dental health aide
13 therapist services provided by Indian tribes, tribal organizations,
14 and urban Indian organizations to promote increased dental care
15 access for persons served in these practice settings in accord with
16 the Indian health care improvement act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1601 et seq.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Dental health aide therapist services
18 are authorized by this chapter under the following conditions:

19 (a) The person providing services is certified as a dental health
20 aide therapist by:

21 (i) A federal community health aide program certification board;
22 or

23 (ii) A federally recognized Indian tribe that has adopted
24 certification standards that meet or exceed the requirements of a
25 federal community health aide program certification board; and

26 (b) All services are performed:

27 (i) In a practice setting operated by an Indian health program or
28 an urban Indian organization;

29 (ii) In accordance with the standards adopted by the certifying
30 body in (a) of this subsection, including scope of practice,
31 training, supervision, and continuing education; and

32 (iii) Pursuant to any applicable written standing orders by a
33 supervising dentist.

34 (2) The performance of dental health aide therapist services is
35 authorized for a person when working within the scope, supervision,
36 and direction of a dental health aide therapy training program that
37 is certified by an entity described in subsection (1) of this
38 section.

(3) All services performed within the scope of subsection (1) or (2) of this section, including the employment or supervision of such services, are exempt from licensing requirements under chapters 18.29, 18.32, 18.260, and 18.350 RCW.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Dental health aide therapist" means a person who has met the training and education requirements, and satisfies other conditions, to be certified as a dental health aide therapist by a federal community health aide program certification board or by a federally recognized Indian tribe that has adopted certification standards that meet or exceed the requirements of a federal community health aide program certification board.

(2) "Federal community health aide program" means a program operated by the Indian health service under the applicable provisions of the Indian health care improvement act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 16161.

(3) "Indian health program" and "urban Indian organization" have the same meaning as the definitions provided in the Indian health care improvement act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1603, as those definitions exist on the effective date of this section.

Sec. 4. RCW 18.29.180 and 2004 c 262 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

The following practices, acts, and operations are excepted from the operation of this chapter:

(1) The practice of dental hygiene in the discharge of official duties by dental hygienists in the United States armed services, coast guard, public health services, veterans' bureau, or bureau of Indian affairs;

(2) Dental hygiene programs approved by the secretary and the practice of dental hygiene by students in dental hygiene programs approved by the secretary, when acting under the direction and supervision of persons licensed under chapter 18.29 or 18.32 RCW acting as instructors;

(3) The practice of dental hygiene by students in accredited dental hygiene educational programs when acting under the direction and supervision of instructors licensed under chapter 18.29 or 18.32 RCW; and

1 (4) The performance of dental health aide therapist services to
2 the extent authorized under chapter 70.--- RCW (the new chapter
3 created in section 9 of this act).

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.32.030 and 2012 c 23 s 7 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The following practices, acts, and operations are excepted from
7 the operation of the provisions of this chapter:

8 (1) The rendering of dental relief in emergency cases in the
9 practice of his or her profession by a physician or surgeon, licensed
10 as such and registered under the laws of this state, unless the
11 physician or surgeon undertakes to or does reproduce lost parts of
12 the human teeth in the mouth or to restore or to replace in the human
13 mouth lost or missing teeth;

14 (2) The practice of dentistry in the discharge of official duties
15 by dentists in the United States federal services on federal
16 reservations, including but not limited to the armed services, coast
17 guard, public health service, veterans' bureau, or bureau of Indian
18 affairs;

19 (3) Dental schools or colleges approved under RCW 18.32.040, and
20 the practice of dentistry by students in accredited dental schools or
21 colleges approved by the commission, when acting under the direction
22 and supervision of Washington state-licensed dental school faculty;

23 (4) The practice of dentistry by licensed dentists of other
24 states or countries while appearing as clinicians at meetings of the
25 Washington state dental association, or component parts thereof, or
26 at meetings sanctioned by them, or other groups approved by the
27 commission;

28 (5) The use of roentgen and other rays for making radiographs or
29 similar records of dental or oral tissues, under the supervision of a
30 licensed dentist or physician;

31 (6) The making, repairing, altering, or supplying of artificial
32 restorations, substitutions, appliances, or materials for the
33 correction of disease, loss, deformity, malposition, dislocation,
34 fracture, injury to the jaws, teeth, lips, gums, cheeks, palate, or
35 associated tissues or parts; providing the same are made, repaired,
36 altered, or supplied pursuant to the written instructions and order
37 of a licensed dentist which may be accompanied by casts, models, or
38 impressions furnished by the dentist, and the prescriptions shall be
39 retained and filed for a period of not less than three years and

1 shall be available to and subject to the examination of the secretary
2 or the secretary's authorized representatives;

3 (7) The removal of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the
4 teeth, the application of topical preventative or prophylactic
5 agents, and the polishing and smoothing of restorations, when
6 performed or prescribed by a dental hygienist licensed under the laws
7 of this state;

8 (8) A qualified and licensed physician and surgeon or osteopathic
9 physician and surgeon extracting teeth or performing oral surgery
10 pursuant to the scope of practice under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW;

11 (9) The performing of dental operations or services by registered
12 dental assistants and licensed expanded function dental auxiliaries
13 holding a credential issued under chapter 18.260 RCW when performed
14 under the supervision of a licensed dentist, or by other persons not
15 licensed under this chapter if the person is licensed pursuant to
16 chapter 18.29, 18.57, 18.71, or 18.79 RCW as it applies to registered
17 nurses and advanced registered nurse practitioners, each while acting
18 within the scope of the person's permitted practice under the
19 person's license: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That such persons shall in no
20 event perform the following dental operations or services unless
21 permitted to be performed by the person under this chapter or
22 chapters 18.29, 18.57, 18.71, 18.79 as it applies to registered
23 nurses and advanced registered nurse practitioners, and 18.260 RCW:

24 (a) Any removal of or addition to the hard or soft tissue of the
25 oral cavity;

26 (b) Any diagnosis of or prescription for treatment of disease,
27 pain, deformity, deficiency, injury, or physical condition of the
28 human teeth or jaws, or adjacent structure;

29 (c) Any administration of general or injected local anaesthetic
30 of any nature in connection with a dental operation, including
31 intravenous sedation;

32 (d) Any oral prophylaxis;

33 (e) The taking of any impressions of the teeth or jaw or the
34 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating
35 any intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis; ~~((and))~~

36 (10) The performing of dental services described in RCW
37 18.350.040 by dental anesthesia assistants certified under chapter
38 18.350 RCW when working under the supervision and direction of an
39 oral and maxillofacial surgeon or dental anesthesiologist; and

1 (11) The performance of dental health aide therapist services to
2 the extent authorized under chapter 70.--- RCW (the new chapter
3 created in section 9 of this act).

4 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.260.110 and 2012 c 229 s 502 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit or restrict:

7 (1) The practice of a dental assistant in the discharge of
8 official duties by dental assistants in the United States federal
9 services on federal reservations, including but not limited to the
10 armed services, coast guard, public health service, veterans' bureau,
11 or bureau of Indian affairs;

12 (2) Expanded function dental auxiliary education and training
13 programs approved by the commission and the practice as an expanded
14 function dental auxiliary by students in expanded function dental
15 auxiliary education and training programs approved by the commission,
16 when acting under the direction and supervision of persons licensed
17 under chapter 18.29 or 18.32 RCW;

18 (3) Dental assistant education and training programs, and the
19 practice of dental assisting by students in dental assistant
20 education and training programs approved by the commission or offered
21 at a school approved or licensed by the workforce training and
22 education coordinating board, student achievement council, state
23 board for community and technical colleges, or Washington state skill
24 centers certified by the office of the superintendent of public
25 instruction, when acting under the direction and supervision of
26 persons registered or licensed under this chapter or chapter 18.29 or
27 18.32 RCW; (~~or~~))

28 (4) The practice of a volunteer dental assistant providing
29 services under the supervision of a licensed dentist in a charitable
30 dental clinic, as approved by the commission in rule; or

31 (5) The performance of dental health aide therapist services to
32 the extent authorized under chapter 70.--- RCW (the new chapter
33 created in section 9 of this act).

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 18.350
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit or restrict
37 dental health aide therapist services to the extent authorized under

1 chapter 70.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 9 of this
2 act).

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to provide that dental
6 health aide therapist services are eligible for medicaid funding in
7 order to promote increased dental care access for persons served in
8 settings operated by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban
9 Indian organizations.

10 (2) The health care authority is directed to coordinate with the
11 centers for medicare and medicaid services to provide that dental
12 health aide therapist services authorized in chapter 70.--- RCW (the
13 new chapter created in section 9 of this act) are eligible for
14 federal funding of up to one hundred percent.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
16 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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