



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4594



Offered by:
REP. GARIBAY, 60th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5140

File No. 33

Cal. No. 51

"AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 20-126*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

5 (a) As used in this section:

6 (1) "General supervision of a licensed dentist" means supervision that
7 authorizes dental hygiene procedures to be performed with the
8 knowledge of said licensed dentist, whether or not the dentist is on the
9 premises when such procedures are being performed;

10 (2) "Public health facility" means an institution, as defined in section
11 19a-490, a community health center, a group home, a school, a preschool
12 operated by a local or regional board of education, a head start program
13 or a program offered or sponsored by the federal Special Supplemental

14 Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, a senior center or a
15 managed residential community, as defined in section 19a-693, a
16 licensed child care center, as described in section 19a-77, or a temporary
17 dental clinic, as defined in section 20-126c;

18 (3) The "practice of dental hygiene" means the performance of
19 educational, preventive and therapeutic services including: Complete
20 prophylaxis; the removal of calcareous deposits, accretions and stains
21 from the supragingival and subgingival surfaces of the teeth by scaling,
22 root planing and polishing; the application of pit and fissure sealants
23 and topical solutions to exposed portions of the teeth; dental hygiene
24 examinations and the charting of oral conditions; dental hygiene
25 assessment, treatment planning and evaluation; the administration of
26 local anesthesia in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of
27 this section; taking alginate impressions of teeth, under the indirect
28 supervision of a dentist, for use in study models, orthodontic
29 appliances, whitening trays, mouth guards and fabrication of temporary
30 crowns; and collaboration in the implementation of the oral health care
31 regimen; and

32 (4) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing
33 education activity.

34 (b) No person shall engage in the practice of dental hygiene unless
35 such person (1) has a dental hygiene license issued by the Department
36 of Public Health and (A) is practicing under the general supervision of
37 a licensed dentist, [or] (B) has been practicing as a licensed dental
38 hygienist for at least two years, is practicing in a public health facility
39 and complies with the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, or
40 (C) has been practicing as a licensed dental hygienist for at least two
41 years, is practicing in the private residence of a patient and complies
42 with the requirements of subsection (e) of this section and the provisions
43 of the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (m) of this section, or
44 (2) has a dental license.

45 (c) A dental hygienist licensed under sections 20-126h to 20-126w,

46 inclusive, shall be known as a "dental hygienist" and no other person
47 shall assume such title or use the abbreviation "R.D.H." or any other
48 words, letters or figures which indicate that the person using such
49 words, letters or figures is a licensed dental hygienist. Any person who
50 employs or permits any other person except a licensed dental hygienist
51 to practice dental hygiene shall be subject to the penalties provided in
52 section 20-126t.

53 (d) A licensed dental hygienist may administer local anesthesia,
54 limited to infiltration and mandibular blocks, under the indirect
55 supervision of a licensed dentist, provided the dental hygienist can
56 demonstrate successful completion of a course of instruction containing
57 basic and current concepts of local anesthesia and pain control in a
58 program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, or its
59 successor organization, that includes: (1) Twenty hours of didactic
60 training, including, but not limited to, the psychology of pain
61 management; a review of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology of
62 anesthetic agents, emergency precautions and management, and client
63 management; instruction on the safe and effective administration of
64 anesthetic agents; and (2) eight hours of clinical training which includes
65 the direct observation of the performance of procedures. For purposes
66 of this subsection, "indirect supervision" means a licensed dentist
67 authorizes and prescribes the use of local anesthesia for a patient and
68 remains in the dental office or other location where the services are
69 being performed by the dental hygienist.

70 (e) A licensed dental hygienist shall not perform the following dental
71 services: (1) Diagnosis for dental procedures or dental treatment; (2) the
72 cutting or removal of any hard or soft tissue or suturing; (3) the
73 prescribing of drugs or medication which require the written or oral
74 order of a licensed dentist or physician; (4) the administration of
75 parenteral, inhalation or general anesthetic agents in connection with
76 any dental operative procedure; (5) the taking of any impression of the
77 teeth or jaws or the relationship of the teeth or jaws for the purpose of
78 fabricating any appliance or prosthesis; (6) the placing, finishing and

79 adjustment of temporary or final restorations, capping materials and
80 cement bases.

81 (f) Each dental hygienist practicing in a public health facility or the
82 private residence of a patient shall (1) refer for treatment any patient
83 with needs outside the dental hygienist's scope of practice, and (2)
84 coordinate such referral for treatment to dentists licensed pursuant to
85 chapter 379.

86 (g) Each licensed dental hygienist applying for license renewal shall
87 earn a minimum of sixteen contact hours of continuing education within
88 the preceding twenty-four-month period, including, for registration
89 periods beginning on and after October 1, 2016, at least one contact hour
90 of training or education in infection control in a dental setting and, for
91 registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2017, at least one
92 contact hour of training or education in cultural competency. The
93 subject matter for continuing education shall reflect the professional
94 needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public.
95 Continuing education activities shall provide significant theoretical or
96 practical content directly related to clinical or scientific aspects of dental
97 hygiene. Qualifying continuing education activities include, but are not
98 limited to, courses, including on-line courses, that are offered or
99 approved by dental schools and other institutions of higher education
100 that are accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental
101 Accreditation, a regional accrediting organization, the American Dental
102 Association, a state, district or local dental association or society
103 affiliated with the American Dental Association, the National Dental
104 Association, the American Dental Hygienists Association or a state,
105 district or local dental hygiene association or society affiliated with the
106 American Dental Hygienists Association, the Academy of General
107 Dentistry, the Academy of Dental Hygiene, the American Red Cross or
108 the American Heart Association when sponsoring programs in
109 cardiopulmonary resuscitation or cardiac life support, the United States
110 Department of Veterans Affairs and armed forces of the United States
111 when conducting programs at United States governmental facilities, a

112 hospital or other health care institution, agencies or businesses whose
113 programs are accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental
114 Accreditation, local, state or national medical associations, or a state or
115 local health department. Eight hours of volunteer dental practice at a
116 public health facility, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, may be
117 substituted for one contact hour of continuing education, up to a
118 maximum of five contact hours in one two-year period. Activities that
119 do not qualify toward meeting these requirements include professional
120 organizational business meetings, speeches delivered at luncheons or
121 banquets, and the reading of books, articles, or professional journals.

122 (h) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section
123 19a-88, except a licensee applying for a license renewal for the first time,
124 shall sign a statement attesting that he or she has satisfied the continuing
125 education requirements described in subsection (g) of this section on a
126 form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records of
127 attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate compliance
128 with the continuing education requirements described in subsection (g)
129 of this section for not less than three years following the date on which
130 the continuing education was completed or the license was renewed.
131 Each licensee shall submit such records to the department for inspection
132 not later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such
133 records. A licensee who fails to comply with the provisions of this
134 section may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-126o.

135 (i) In individual cases involving medical disability or illness, the
136 Commissioner of Public Health may grant a waiver of the continuing
137 education requirements or an extension of time within which to fulfill
138 the requirements of this subsection to any licensee, provided the
139 licensee submits to the Department of Public Health an application for
140 waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the commissioner,
141 along with a certification by a licensed physician, a licensed physician
142 assistant or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse of the
143 disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required
144 by the commissioner. The commissioner may grant a waiver or

145 extension for a period not to exceed one registration period, except the
146 commissioner may grant additional waivers or extensions if the medical
147 disability or illness upon which a waiver or extension is granted
148 continues beyond the period of the waiver or extension and the licensee
149 applies for an additional waiver or extension.

150 (j) A licensee who is not engaged in active professional practice, in
151 any form, during a registration period shall be exempt from the
152 continuing education requirements, provided the licensee submits a
153 notarized application for exemption on a form prescribed by the
154 commissioner prior to the end of the registration period. A licensee who
155 is exempt under the provisions of this subsection may not engage in
156 professional practice until the licensee has met the continuing education
157 requirements of this section.

158 (k) A licensee whose license has become void pursuant to section 19a-
159 88 and who applies to the department for reinstatement of such license,
160 shall: (1) Submit evidence of completion of a minimum of twenty-four
161 contact hours of qualifying continuing education, as described in
162 subsection (g) of this section, during the two-year period immediately
163 preceding the application for reinstatement; or (2) for an applicant who
164 has not been in the active practice of dental hygiene for more than two
165 years, submit evidence of successful completion of the National Board
166 Dental Hygiene Examination, the North East Regional Board of Dental
167 Examiners Examination in Dental Hygiene or a refresher course
168 approved by the department during the one-year period immediately
169 preceding the application for reinstatement.

170 (l) No provision of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a
171 student of dental hygiene enrolled in a dental hygiene program, as
172 described in section 20-126i, from performing dental hygiene work as a
173 required component of his or her course of study in such program,
174 provided the student (1) performs such work under the direct
175 supervision of a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 379 or a dental
176 hygienist licensed pursuant to this chapter, (2) shall not hold himself or
177 herself out as a licensed dental hygienist, and (3) shall not receive

178 compensation for such work.

179 (m) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in
180 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish requirements
181 for a licensed dental hygienist's practice of dental hygiene in the private
182 residence of a patient, as described in subsection (b) of this section."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-126l