

Approved June 11, 1997.  
Effective September 1, 1997.

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CHAPTER 646

H.B. No. 2255

AN ACT

relating to the licensing of certain dentists and dental hygienists.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 2(a), Article 4545a, Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Board, upon payment by the applicant of a fee set by the Board, shall grant a license to a dentist or dental hygienist who has [not] graduated from a *foreign* dental or dental hygiene school *that is recognized by the government of the country in which the school is located as providing appropriate educational preparation for the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in that country* [~~accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association~~] if:

(1) the dentist or dental hygienist has practiced for a minimum of five years immediately prior to applying;

(2) the dentist or dental hygienist has not been the subject of final or pending disciplinary action in any jurisdiction in which the dentist or dental hygienist is or has been licensed;

(3) the Board, through a procedure adopted by rule, *determines* [~~has determined~~] that *the program the applicant attended is the educational* [~~qualifications are~~] *equivalent of a dental or a dental hygienist program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association* [~~to those required to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in the state~~]; and

(4) the dentist or dental hygienist has completed all examinations required by the Board for licensure.

SECTION 2. Article 4545a, Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Section 3 to read as follows:

*Sec. 3. (a) The Dental Hygiene Advisory Committee shall assist the Board in determining educational equivalency under Section 2(a) of this article.*

*(b) The advisory committee shall review transcripts, course descriptions, and other material considered necessary by the Board to determine educational equivalency.*

*(c) A member of the advisory committee is not liable in a civil action for any act performed in good faith in the execution of that member's duty as a committee member.*

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 7, 1997, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 21, 1997, by a viva-voce vote.

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