INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-113

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly

A Bill

JMB/JMB
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative Schulz

Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REMOVE AGE AND SETTING LIMITATIONS WITHIN THE DENTAL HYGIENIST COLLABORATIVE CARE PROGRAM; TO EXPAND ACCESS UNDER THE DENTAL HYGIENIST COLLABORATIVE CARE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REMOVE AGE AND SETTING LIMITATIONS WITHIN THE DENTAL HYGIENIST COLLABORATIVE CARE PROGRAM; AND TO EXPAND ACCESS UNDER THE DENTAL HYGIENIST COLLABORATIVE CARE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-82-701(1), concerning the definition of "collaborative agreement" under the Dental Hygienist Collaborative Care Program, is amended to read as follows:

(1) “Collaborative agreement” means a written agreement between a dentist licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners and a dental hygienist licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners providing that the dental hygienist may provide prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, dental hygiene instruction, assessment of a patient’s need for further treatment by a dentist, and if delegated by the consulting

dentist, other services provided by law to ~~children, senior citizens, and persons with developmental disabilities~~ persons eligible to receive services under § 17-82-703 in a ~~public~~ setting approved by the Department of Health without the supervision and presence of the dentist and without a prior examination of the persons by the dentist;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-82-701(5) and (6), concerning the definitions of "public setting" and "senior citizen" under the Dental Hygienist Collaborative Care Program are repealed.

~~(5) "Public settings" means:~~

~~(A) Adult long-term care facilities;~~

~~(B) Charitable health clinics that provide free or reduced-fee services to low-income patients;~~

~~(C) County incarceration facilities;~~

~~(D) Facilities that primarily serve individuals with intellectual or other developmental disabilities;~~

~~(E) Head Start programs;~~

~~(F) Homes of homebound patients who qualify for in-home medical assistance;~~

~~(G) Hospital long-term care units;~~

~~(H) Local health units;~~

~~(I) Schools;~~

~~(J) Community health centers; and~~

~~(K) State correctional institutions; and~~

~~(6) "Senior citizen" means a person sixty-five (65) years of age or older.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-82-703(b), concerning the provision of services by collaborative dental hygienist under the Dental Hygienist Collaborative Care Program, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A collaborative dental hygienist who holds a Collaborative Care Permit II may provide prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, dental hygiene instruction, assessment of the patient's need for further treatment by a dentist, and other services provided by law if delegated by the consulting dentist to ~~children, senior citizens, and persons with developmental disabilities~~ persons of any age in ~~public~~ settings approved by

the Department of Health without the supervision and direction of a dentist and without a prior examination of the patient by the consulting dentist.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-82-705(a), concerning the permission of the Department of Health, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In order for a collaborative dental hygienist to provide services to persons under this subchapter, the consulting dentist with whom the collaborative dental hygienist has entered a collaborative agreement ~~must have received~~ shall receive permission from the Department of Health for the collaborative dental hygienist to serve patients at ~~public~~ settings approved and designated by the department on a date or dates designated by the department.

Referred by Representative Schulz
Prepared by: JMB/JMB