

HB 827 -- Dental Hygienists

Sponsor: Allen

This bill changes the laws regarding dental hygienists. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Defines "public health setting" as a location where authorized dental services are performed if the delivery of services is sponsored by certain entities, including the Department of Health and Senior Services, a county or city health department, a nonprofit entity funded through the federal Public Health Services Act, a Medicaid-enrolled pediatric office, head start centers and schools, hospitals, and long-term care facilities;
- (2) Authorizes a licensed dental hygienist practicing within a public health setting to provide radiographs without the supervision of a dentist. Currently, a licensed dental hygienist must have been in practice at least three years to provide certain services which do not include radiographs;
- (3) Requires MO HealthNet to reimburse any licensed dental hygienist practicing in a public health setting in which fluoride treatments, teeth cleaning, radiographs, and certain sealants are provided. Currently, specified services are to be reimbursed by the Missouri Medicaid Program; and
- (4) Specifies that the Missouri Dental Board within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration may approve any additional settings where a dental hygienist may provide services without the supervision of a dentist. Currently, these settings must be established jointly by the Department of Health and Senior Services and the board.