

HB 2027 -- DENTAL HYGIENISTS

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 15 to 0.

This bill allows a dental hygienist to enter into an extended access agreement with a dentist authorizing them to provide dental hygiene services in areas of the state without being under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. The extended access agreement will outline the protocols for practice, description of services allowed, populations to be served, the responsibilities of the partnering dentist and the hygienist concerning consultation, record maintenance, emergency management plan, and referral procedures.

The bill contains provisions regarding the creation and the operation of an extended access agreement.

This bill is similar to HB 459 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would extend the collaborative practice between dental hygienists and dentists. It would allow hygienists to travel to locations such as nursing homes or group homes and work with less mobile patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lichtenegger; Diann Bomkamp, Missouri Dental Hygienists' Association; and Bonnie Branson.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that dental hygienists are not trained to diagnose or treat patients. This bill could lead to patients being seen by dental hygienists without ever being diagnosed or treated by a dentist. Currently, any patient that sees a dental hygienist would also be treated by the hygienist's supervising dentist at least once a year.

Testifying against the bill were Lynne Barbour, Missouri Dental Association and JC Standlee, Missouri Dental Association.