

## BILL ANALYSIS

		<b><u>DATE:</u></b>	9/11/2008
<b><u>COMMITTEE:</u></b>	Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure	<b><u>BILL NO.:</u></b>	HB 1257
<b><u>PRIME SPONSOR:</u></b>	Rep. Pashinski	<b><u>PRINTER NO.</u></b>	2934

House Bill 1257 amends the Dental Law, to expand the scope of practice for “expanded function dental assistants” referred to as EFDA and creates a new classification of regulation within a dental office, “certified dental assistants.” The legislation will now permit an EFDA to perform certain procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, including:

Placing and contouring amalgam and other restorative materials; perform coronal polishing; perform fluoride treatments, including fluoride varnish; and take impressions of teeth for athletic appliances. Direct supervision would require a dentist to be in the office or treatment facility and to personally diagnose the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedure is being performed before dismissal of the patient and evaluate the work performed. House bill 1257 outlines functions that an EFDA shall not perform.

The bill also creates a certificate process for certified dental assistants. It provides that the State Board of Dentistry (Board) may issue certificates to dental assistants who:

- Submit an application approved by the Board;
- Pay a fee set by the Board;
- Obtain at least 3,500 hours of clinical experience performing the functions of a dental assistant and verify satisfactorily to the Board;
- Hold a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification; and
- Successfully pass the dental assistant national board’s certified dental assistant examination.

A certified dental assistant would be able to perform coronal polishing for children up to the age of 17; fluoride treatments (including varnishes); taking impressions of the teeth for athletic appliances.

They would also be able to perform any other procedure not designated by The Dental Law to be performed by a licensed dentist, dental hygienist or EFDA.

House Bill 1257 would require the Board to promulgate regulations to implement the sections of this act within 18 months of the act's effective date.

The act would take effect in 60 days.