Chapter 680

Dental Hygienists

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680.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Board" means the Oregon State Board of Dental Examiners.

(2) "Dental hygienist" means a person having successfully completed a course from an institution offering such a course approved by the American Dental Association and accepted by the State Board of Dental Examiners.

(3) "Dentist" means a person holding a license to practice as a dentist in the State of Oregon.

(4) "Practicing dental hygienist" means any person other than a dentist, who:

(a) Uses the title "Dental Hygienist" or the letters "D. H." in connection with his name; or

(b) Holds himself out to the public in any manner whatsoever as one who can or will render service or practice as a dental hygienist; or

(c) Removes deposits or accretions from the exposed surfaces of the human teeth of another person or cleans or polishes the exposed surfaces of such teeth; or

(d) Applies and uses within a patient's mouth such technical procedures, including the use of such drugs as may be approved by the American Dental Association and the State Board of Dental Examiners for the prevention of dental caries, under the direction of a licensed dentist.

(5) "Public institution" means any federal, state or municipal institution.

680.020 Practice of dental hygiene without license prohibited. No person shall engage in the practice of dental hygiene or practice as a dental hygienist in this state until such person has passed an examination given by the board under such rules and regulations as it may deem fit and proper to formulate and has been issued a license therefor by the board.

680.030 Persons not affected by chapter. (1) Nothing contained in this chapter relating to the practice of dental hygiene shall apply to the practice thereof by a dentist. However, the board may revoke or suspend the license of a dentist who permits any dental hygienist operating under his supervision to perform any operation other than those provided in subsection (4) of ORS 680.010.

(2) Nothing in this chapter applies to a regularly licensed physician and surgeon in Oregon and nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to affect the practice of medicine or dentistry, or prevent students of a dental college from practicing dental hygiene under the supervision of their instructors.

680.040 Qualifications of applicants for license. No person shall be issued a license to engage in the practice of dental hygiene or practice as a dental hygienist in Oregon unless he:

(1) Is a citizen of the United States;

(2) Is of good moral character;

(3) Is over the age of 20 years;

(4) Is a graduate of a high school or the equivalent thereof;

(5) Has satisfactorily completed at least two years work in the University of Oregon Dental School or in a school of dentistry approved by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association or such other accrediting agency or agencies as are recognized by the American Association of Dental Schools; and

(6) Has passed an examination by the board under such rules and regulations as the board may adopt.

680.050 Filing of applications. Every application for a license to practice dental hygiene or as a dental hygienist shall be filed with the board and accompanied by the payment of the examination fee provided for in ORS 680.070 which shall not be refunded if the applicant is permitted to take the written examination.

680.060 Examination of applicants. Upon satisfactory evidence that an applicant for examination as a dental hygienist possesses the qualifications named in ORS 680.040, the board shall give the applicant a thorough examination consisting of practical demonstrations and written tests on such subjects as the board may prescribe.

680.070 Examination fee; annual fee; time of payment. The fee for the examination is $15, which shall be paid in advance before the examination is taken. The annual license fee is $5 for each year or fraction thereof. The annual license fee of $5 shall be paid on or before July 1 of each year for the ensuing 12 months and expires on June 30 in the year following.

680.080 Issuing license; effective term of license. After satisfactorily passing the examination and paying the annual license

fee required by ORS 680.070 the applicant shall be issued a license as a dental hygienist by the board and shall be registered as such by the board. The license shall remain in full force and effect as long as the licensee continues to pay the annual license fee, but not otherwise, and the license may at any time be revoked or suspended by the board for violation of any provision of this chapter and shall automatically expire on July 1 of any year upon failure of the licensee to pay the annual license fee for the succeeding year.

680.090 Issuance of certificates; display of certificate or license. The board shall issue certificates of registration as dental hygienist to those who pass the examination in a manner satisfactory to the board and pay the license fee required in ORS 680.070. The certificate of registration or license shall be conspicuously displayed in the office in which the dental hygienist is employed.

680.100 Grounds for revocation of license. The board may revoke or suspend the license of any dental hygienist for any of the following causes:

(1) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

(2) Permitting any other person to use or display his license as the license of such other person.

(3) Conviction of the violation of any law of this state relative to the practice of dentistry or the practice of dental hygiene.

680.110 Disposition of receipts. All moneys paid by applicants to the board as examination and licensing fees under this chapter shall be used for the same purposes and accounted for by the board in the same manner as moneys obtained as fees from applicants for license to practice dentistry in Oregon.

680.120 to 680.140 [Reserved for expansion]

680.150 Who may employ a dental hygienist. Any dentist or public institution may employ a licensed and registered dental hygienist, who may engage in the practice of dental hygiene in the office of such dentist or in such public institution. However, such practice shall be engaged in only under the immediate direction and supervision of a dentist.

680.160 How many hygienists may be employed. The number of dental hygienists employed in the office of a licensed dentist or any public institution shall not exceed the number of dentists practicing in such office or institution.

680.170 Registration of hygienists employed. Every dentist and public institution employing the services of one or more dental hygienists shall, within 30 days, register the names and dates of employment and termination of employment, of all such dental hygienists with the board.

680.990 Penalties. Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than $50 and not more than $250, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both.