

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R631 MXM-F

C.S.S.B. 114
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Health & Human Services
3/19/2001
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

One of the current national health objectives is to provide at least half of all school children with dental sealants. Sealants have proved effective in preventing tooth decay and other more serious dental problems. Currently, dental assistants are prohibited from polishing teeth, which is a step in applying sealants. C.S.S.B. 114 authorizes dental assistants with sufficient experience and training to polish teeth for the application of sealants.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 258.001, Occupations Code, to delete text regarding exposed human teeth.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 258.002, Occupations Code, by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to authorize a licensed dentist to delegate, under Subsection (a), the application of a pit and fissure sealant.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 262.003, Occupations Code, to exempt from application of this chapter an employee of a licensed dentist who polishes exposed human teeth in the office of and under the supervision of a dentist practicing dentistry in this state.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 265.003, Occupations Code, to authorize a dental assistant who is not professionally licensed to perform one or more delegated dental acts under the direct supervision, direction, and responsibility of the dentist, including the application of a pit and fissure sealant. Authorizes a dental assistant to apply a pit and fissure sealant under Subsection (a) only if the assistant has at least two years experience as an assistant; has completed any training required by the State Board of Dental Examiners (board) for application of a sealant under this section; and is certified by the board to perform the act.

SECTION 5. Effective date: September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 3. Differs from the original by extending the exemption in Section 262.003, Occupations Code, to a dental employee polishing teeth. Redesignates the subsequent SECTIONS 3 and 4 as 4 and 5.