



## *Detailed Fiscal Analysis*

The Ohio State Dental Board regulates the dental profession by licensing properly qualified individuals, investigating complaints, and maintaining appropriate training, ethical standards, and competency levels for its licensees. As of June 30, 2004, the Board licensed 6,848 dentists, 6,772 dental hygienists, and 7,168 dental assistant radiographers.

### **Administration of Local Anesthesia by a Dental Hygienist**

Under current law, dental hygienists may administer topical anesthesia (e.g., ointments, solutions, jellies). The bill expands the scope of practice of dental hygienists to include the administration of intraoral, block, and infiltration anesthesia, as long as the dental hygienist does all of the following: (1) administer the anesthesia under the direct supervision of a dentist, (2) successfully complete a course in the administration of local anesthesia approved by the Dental Board and offered by a dental or dental hygiene program that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, (3) successfully pass a state or regional written examination on local anesthesia approved by the Dental Board within 18 months of course completion, and (4) obtain certification to perform basic cardiac life-support procedures.

According to the Ohio State Dental Board, there would be no additional fees charged to dental hygienists to support this change in scope of practice. The Board would realize minimal increases in expenditures relating to start-up costs in FY 2006 for rules promulgation and other such duties. The Board could also see an increase in the number of investigations related to the administration of anesthesia. The Board does not anticipate a large number of investigations. As a result, any increases in investigative costs should be minimal in nature.

### **State Dental Board Membership**

Currently, the State Dental Board is made up of 13 members. Of the nine members who are in the practice of dentistry, two members shall be specialists. The same specialty shall not be represented by the two specialty members at the same time. When a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall make all reasonable efforts to fill the vacancy with a specialist who represents a specialty that is different from one represented by the vacating member. The number of board members remains unchanged, thus, there will be no fiscal effect.

### **Registration of Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries**

The bill requires the Board to adopt rules the Board considers necessary to implement and administer the registration of Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDAs). These rules should specify the education or training necessary and the standards that must be met for an examination of competency to practice as an EFDA. The Board shall specify that the examination will only be accepted if the entity that administered the exam required an individual to be one of the following as a condition of admission to the examination: (1) an unlicensed dentist who has graduated from an accredited dental college and does not have a suspended or revoked license, (2) a dental student, good standing, enrolled in an accredited dental college, (3) a graduate of a dental college located outside of the United States, (4) a dental assistant who is certified by the dental assisting national board or the Ohio commission on dental assistant certification, (5) a licensed dental hygienist in good standing, and (6) an unlicensed dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene school and does not have a suspended or revoked license.

The bill lists what the practice of an EFDA should consist of. However, the board may adopt rules that specify additional procedures an EFDA may perform. The bill also sets an application fee and renewal fee of \$20 for EFDAs and specifies the requirements for registration. The Secretary of the Board is required to maintain a record of all those registered as EFDAs. This record should identify the location where the auxiliary primarily practices and the person's one or more supervising dentists.

Currently, the Board requires EFDAs to meet certain minimum standards to practice, but does not register them. As such, the Board will experience an increase in operating expenses, including registration, investigation/enforcement, and continuing education review. The Board maintains that they will try to absorb the additional responsibilities with current staffing levels. However, the total cost of the implementation of these provisions is unknown at this time. The Board has estimated that there would be 2,000 initial EFDA registrations in the first year and then approximately 100 to 150 each year thereafter. If this is the case, the Board could receive up to \$40,000 in revenues for this registration in the first year. Registration renewals would be every two years. It is unknown whether the fee revenues will match expenditures related to these additional responsibilities.

### **Dental X-ray Machine Operator**

The bill specifies that an application fee and renewal fee of \$25 is required for a certificate to practice as a dental x-ray machine operator. Currently, the fee for this license is established in rules. According to the Board, both the renewal and application fees are currently \$25, so there should be no fiscal effect for this provision.

### **Local Costs**

The bill specifies that no person shall practice as an EFDA without being registered. An EFDA practicing without registration would be subject to a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense and a felony of the fifth degree on each subsequent offense. Also, the bill makes violating any provision of this chapter of the Revised Code, for which no specific penalty has been prescribed, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the second degree on each subsequent offense. These provisions could result in increased expenditures for county and municipal courts. However, given the relatively small estimated number of EFDAs it is expected that any increase will be minimal.

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