



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 26, 2024
TO	California Consumers, Dental Hygiene Licensees and Students, Dental Hygiene Educational Programs, and Interested Stakeholders
FROM	Dental Hygiene Board of California
SUBJECT	Passage of Assembly Bill 1257 and Effect on California Dental Hygiene Laws

In October 2023, Governor Newsom approved and signed into law the provisions in Assembly Bill 1257, Ch. 677, Statutes of 2023 with regard to the Dental Hygiene Board of California (Board). In the bill, the provisions effective January 1, 2024, are:

- 1) Authorizes an appointing authority to remove a member of the Board appointed by that appointing authority, as specified.
- 2) Extends the repeal date of the Board and related appointment provisions to January 1, 2028.
- 3) Graduation on or after January 1, 2024 (bill's effective date), from a California accredited dental hygiene educational program approved by the Board within the preceding 3 years from the application date satisfies the requirement for satisfactory performance of the dental hygiene examination given by the Western Regional Examining Board or any other clinical or dental hygiene examination approved by the Board.
- 4) Requires an applicant for licensure as a registered dental hygienist to maintain a current, valid certification in basic life support, as prescribed.

- 5) Authorizes the Board to increase the prescribed mandatory coursework to 10 hours per renewal period, if necessary.
- 6) Authorizes a person licensed as a registered dental hygienist or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice to provide oral health in-service training to staff in a long-term health care facility.

NOTE: For item three (3) above, a registered dental hygienist applicant must apply for a California dental hygiene license within three (3) years of graduation to waive the clinical examination requirement. Those who apply after three (3) years of graduation must submit a passing score on a Board-approved clinical examination to apply for licensure. Any out-of-state applicant for licensure must provide proof of passage of a Board-approved dental hygiene clinical examination unless applying through the Licensure By Credential (LBC) pathway. Please review the licensure pathways on our website at www.dhbc.ca.gov for further information. Any applicant who obtains a license through the pathway in item three (3) above may be required to complete a dental hygiene clinical examination if they relocate to another state or jurisdiction in the future. Be sure to review the chosen state or jurisdiction's laws and requirements for licensure prior to completing a clinical examination. Thank you.

Dental Hygiene Board of California