



**2022 FEE INCREASE JUSTIFICATION – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 1944, at the July 17, 2021 Dental Hygiene Board of California (Board) board meeting, the Board voted to approve the following fee increases effective July 1, 2022 to generate additional revenue to maintain fund solvency for Board operations.

<b>DENTAL HYGIENE BOARD FEE INCREASES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022</b>		
<b>FEE CATEGORY</b>	<b>CURRENT FEE</b>	<b>NEW FEE</b>
RDH License Renewal Fee	\$160	\$300
RDH Delinquent Renewal Fee (1/2 Renewal Fee)	\$80	\$150
RDHEF License Renewal Fee	\$160	\$300
RDHEF Delinquent Renewal Fee (1/2 Renewal Fee)	\$80	\$150
Special Permit Fee for Teaching	\$160	\$300
Certification of Licensure Fee	\$25	\$50

The last major Board fee increases were implemented January 1, 2014 and projected to sustain the Board's fund for five years before additional revenue was necessary. Since then, the Board was able to operate an additional three years for a total of 8 years with no fee increases. During that time, the Board efficiently maintained operations and staffing beyond the original projected date of when additional revenue and fee increases would be needed. With the increased cost of doing business, the Board's fund is threatened with insolvency if more revenue is not generated. The only fees that generate adequate revenue to sustain the Board's fund for an extended period are the license renewal fees. The RDH and RDHEF license renewal fees were selected for increases to have an extended impact on the fund to maintain fund solvency.

The following table displays some of the ongoing costs of doing business over the years and shows the specific line item cost the Board has endured for each respective year.

<b>COST PER FISCAL YEAR OF SOME LINE ITEMS OF THE BOARD'S BUDGET</b>				
<b>Main Line Items</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>	<b>FY 2019-2020</b>	<b>FY 2020-2021</b>
Contracts – Experts/Vendors	\$37,946	\$32,294	\$132,882*	\$47,321
Enforcement	\$83,482	\$56,976	\$313,103	\$234,376
Equipment	\$1,796	\$17,197	\$11,717	\$32,011
Facilities	\$59,526	\$56,763	\$58,741	\$101,735
Pro Rata	\$485,350	\$485,350	\$484,882	\$449,119
Salaries & Wages	\$700,466	\$737,523	963,403	\$1,012,012
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,368,566</b>	<b>\$1,386,103</b>	<b>\$1,964,728</b>	<b>\$1,876,574</b>

\*Includes Contracts for Examination Development.

The most obvious increase in cost has been in salary and wages for staff to run Board operations. To provide the services that applicants, licensees, educational programs and the public alike should receive, it takes people to run its operations and over the years, the Board has gradually added staff to accommodate the mandates and programs under the Board's purview. Other increases in expenditures are enforcement costs, facilities, and contracting costs for subject matter experts and examination development. Pro Rata, which is the cost the Board incurs for being part of the state government system, pays for operational areas through the department (Department of Consumer Affairs) and other state agencies for accounting, budgeting, IT and support, personnel, purchasing, printing, training, and other program needs that the Board itself cannot complete on its own.

The following table displays other licensed professional's renewal fees that are similar to the new dental hygiene license renewal fees:

Licensed Professional	Biennial License Renewal Fee	Licensee Population
Accupuncturist	\$500	35,000
Chiropractor	\$313	13,000
Dentist	\$650	28,000
<b>Dental Hygienist</b>	<b>\$300*</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Optometrist	\$425	8,500
Physician Assistant	\$312	8,000
Physical Therapist	\$300	20,000
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$300	9,000
Respiratory Therapist	\$330	24,000
Veterinary Technician	\$350	10,000
*Effective July 1, 2022		

As displayed, the new renewal fees place dental hygienists within the fee range of many other healthcare professionals and are not close to the maximum of \$500 allowable by law. Other licensed professionals may have lower renewal fees, but probably have a much larger licensee population where higher numbers make it easier to generate revenue. Each board is a separate entity and deals with profession-specific issues which is the reason comparing fees from one board to the next may not be a fair or equal comparison.

We hope this helps to explain and justify the latest fee increases approved by the Board. We understand the magnitude of the increases and the burden it can place on licensees, but for the Board to continue to operate, its fund is required to remain solvent. The cost breakdown for dental hygiene licensees to maintain their licenses to work will be \$12.50/month once the new fees go into effect ( $\$12.50/\text{month} \times 24 \text{ months} = \$300.00$ ) as of July 1, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dental Hygiene Board of CA

