



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF DENTAL PRACTICE



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**Informational Letter Regarding Enacted Laws
During the 132nd Second Regular Session of the Maine State Legislature**

During the 132nd Second Regular session, certain laws were enacted that either directly or indirectly impact the Maine Board of Dental Practice (“the Board”) and its enabling statute referred to as the “Dental Practice Act” (Ref. Title 32, Chapter 143). Below is a list and summary of those laws, including their effective dates and implementation status, as applicable.

Newly enacted legislation:

- 1) Public Law 2026, chapter 601 “An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists” (effective April 3, 2026)
- 2) Resolve 2025, chapter 107 “Resolve, to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry” (effective date: July 1, 2025)

Summary/Implementation:

- 1) Public Law 2026, chapter 601 (Scope of Practice for Independent Practice Dental Hygienists):
 - a. **Summary:** This law expands the scope of practice for dental hygienists who are practicing independently, to administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia as long as the dental hygienist has authority to administer the relevant medication.
 - b. **Implementation:** Rulemaking changes to the practice requirements chapter will be posted on the Board’s proposed rule changes: <https://www.maine.gov/dental/statutes-rules/statutes-rules.html>
- 2) Public Law 2025, chapter 107 (Recommendations from the Commission to the Board of Dental Practice):
 - a. **Summary:** The following recommendations were made to the Board by the [Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry](#) (December 2025):
 - i. Report to the HCIFS Committee by February 2026 and again by February 2027 on the progress it has made towards promulgating rules for licensure by endorsement as required by 10 M.R.S. §8003-H, including the process and criteria the Board utilizes to evaluate the “educational equivalent of a doctoral degree in dentistry and establishing a publicly accessible list of States that the Board has determined meet the criteria for substantially equivalent license requirements;

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- ii. Direct the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation to explore funding sources that would provide the Board with the ability to increase its administrative infrastructure to develop and administer a pilot project to collect workforce data at the time of initial licensure and license renewal for both dentists and dental hygienists; and
 - iii. Direct the Board to explore incentives to encourage dental providers to enroll as MaineCare providers and treat MaineCare patients, including providing continuing education credits towards license renewal.
- b. Implementation:** Rulemaking changes to the licensure chapters and continuing education chapter to fully implement this legislation will be posted on the Board's proposed rule changes: <https://www.maine.gov/dental/statutes-rules/statutes-rules.html>

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact board staff at dental.board@maine.gov

FMI:

Maine State Legislature: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>

MBDP Recently Enacted Legislation: <https://www.maine.gov/dental/statutes-rules/statutes-rules.html>

MBDP Proposed Rulemaking: <https://www.maine.gov/dental/statutes-rules/statutes-rules.html>

