

SENATE FILE NO. SF0049

Denturists.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Geis and Representative(s) Quarberg

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the licensure of denturists; creating a  
2 board of denturists; regulating the practice of denturism;  
3 providing for licensing, fees, examinations and other  
4 regulation of denturists; repealing prohibition on  
5 soliciting for denturism services; providing criminal  
6 penalties for violations of denturist act; providing  
7 definitions; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 33-15-201 through 33-15-217 are  
12 created to read:

13

14

CHAPTER 15

15

DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND DENTURISTS

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ARTICLE 2  
DENTURISTS

**33-15-201. Definitions.**

(a) As used in this article:

(i) "Board" means the Wyoming board of denturists;

(ii) "Denture" means a removable full or partial upper or lower dental appliance to be worn in the mouth to replace the missing natural teeth;

(iii) "Denturist" means a person licensed under this article to engage in the practice of denturism;

(iv) "Practice of denturism" means:

(A) Making, placing, constructing, altering, reproducing or repairing a denture; and

1                   (B) Taking impressions and furnishing or  
2 supplying a denture directly to a person or advising the  
3 use of a denture and maintaining a facility for the same.

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5           (b) This article may be cited as the "Wyoming Denture  
6 Practice Act."

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8           **33-15-202. Board of denturists; rulemaking.**

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10           (a) There is created the Wyoming board of denturists.  
11 The board shall carry out the purposes and enforce the  
12 provisions of this article. The board shall consist of  
13 five (5) members appointed by the governor with the advice  
14 and consent of the senate. Appointments made between  
15 sessions of the legislature shall be made in accordance  
16 with W.S. 28-12-101.

17  
18           (b) The term for board members is four (4) years and  
19 shall be in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101 through  
20 28-12-103.

21  
22           (c) The board shall consist of:

23  
24           (i) Three (3) practicing denturists;

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2 (ii) One (1) practicing dentist; and

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4 (iii) One (1) member of the public.

5

6 (d) The governor may remove any member as provided in  
7 W.S. 9-1-202. Any vacancy on the board caused by the  
8 resignation, death or removal of a member shall be filled  
9 by the governor by appointment for the unexpired term of  
10 that member. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be  
11 made within ninety (90) days after the vacancy occurs.

12

13 (e) Each member of the board shall, before entering  
14 upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe an oath  
15 or affirmation that he will support the constitution and  
16 the laws of the United States and the state of Wyoming, and  
17 that he will faithfully perform the duties as a member of  
18 the board.

19

20 (f) The board shall elect from its members a  
21 president, vice-president and a secretary-treasurer. The  
22 board shall have a common seal. The board shall meet in  
23 June each year, and more often if necessary, at such times  
24 and places designated by the board. The meeting of the

1 board shall be at the call of the president and the  
2 secretary-treasurer. Five (5) days notice shall be given  
3 by the secretary-treasurer to all board members of the time  
4 and place of the meeting. A majority of the board  
5 constitutes a quorum.

6

7 (g) The board shall not create any indebtedness on  
8 behalf of the state of Wyoming, except as provided in this  
9 section. Out of the funds assessed by the board, each of  
10 the members of the board shall receive compensation for  
11 each day or part of a day in which they are engaged in  
12 performance of their official duties at the same rate as  
13 state legislators and shall be reimbursed for actual and  
14 necessary expenses, and mileage incurred in the performance  
15 of their official duties.

16

17 (h) The board may make, adopt, amend, repeal and  
18 enforce reasonable rules and regulations necessary for the  
19 proper administration of this article.

20

21 (j) The board shall report annually to the governor  
22 respecting all activities, as required by W.S. 9-2-1014.

23

24 **33-15-203. Denturists; generally.**

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2 (a) Before making and fitting a denture, a denturist  
3 shall examine the patient's oral cavity.

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5 (b) If the examination gives the denturist reasonable  
6 cause to believe that there is an abnormality or disease  
7 process that requires medical or dental treatment, the  
8 denturist shall immediately refer the patient to a dentist  
9 or physician. In such cases, the denturist shall take no  
10 further action to manufacture or place a denture until the  
11 patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and the  
12 dentist or physician gives written clearance that the  
13 denture will pose no threat to the patient's health.

14

15 (c) If the examination reveals the need for tissue or  
16 teeth modification in order to assure proper fit of a full  
17 or partial denture, the denturist shall refer the patient  
18 to a dentist and assure that the modification has been  
19 completed before taking an impression for the completion of  
20 the denture.

21

22 (d) Any denturist who makes or places a denture in a  
23 manner not consistent with this section is subject to the  
24 sanctions provided under this article.

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2 (e) A denturist shall successfully complete special  
3 training in oral pathology prescribed by the board, whether  
4 as part of an approved associates degree program or  
5 equivalent training, and pass an examination prescribed by  
6 the board, which may be a part of the examination for  
7 licensure to become a licensed denturist.

8

9 **33-15-204. Qualifications.**

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11 No person may represent himself as a licensed denturist or  
12 use any title or description of denturism services without  
13 applying for licensure, meeting the required qualifications  
14 and being licensed as a denturist by the board, unless  
15 otherwise exempted by this article.

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17 **33-15-205. Exemptions.**

18

19 (a) Nothing in this article prohibits or restricts:

20

21 (i) The practice of a profession by an  
22 individual who is licensed, certified or registered under  
23 other laws of this state and who is performing services  
24 within the authorized scope of practice;

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2 (ii) The practice of denturism by an individual  
3 employed by the government of the United States while the  
4 individual is engaged in the performance of duties  
5 prescribed by the laws and regulations of the United  
6 States;

7

8 (iii) The practice of denturism by students  
9 enrolled in a school approved by the board. The  
10 performance of services shall be pursuant to a course of  
11 instruction or an assignment from an instructor and under  
12 the supervision of an instructor; or

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14 (iv) Work performed by dental labs and dental  
15 technicians under the written prescription of a dentist.

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17 **33-15-206. Determination of fees.**

18

19 The board shall determine, in accordance with W.S.  
20 33-1-201, each year the fees to be collected for  
21 examinations, reexaminations, licensure and renewals.

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23 **33-15-207. Reciprocity; licensing.**

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1           (a) The board shall issue a license to practice  
2 denturism to an applicant who submits a completed  
3 application, pays the appropriate fees, and meets the  
4 following requirements:

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6           (i) A person currently licensed to practice  
7 denturism under statutory provisions of another state,  
8 territory of the United States, District of Columbia or  
9 Puerto Rico, with substantially equivalent licensing  
10 standards to this article applicable to denturism shall be  
11 licensed without examination upon providing the board with  
12 the following:

13

14           (A) Proof of successfully passing a written  
15 and clinical examination for denturism in a state,  
16 territory of the United States, District of Columbia or  
17 Puerto Rico, that the board has determined has  
18 substantially equivalent licensing standards as those in  
19 this article, including but not limited to both the written  
20 and clinical examination; and

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22           (B) An affidavit from the licensing agency  
23 where the person is licensed or certified attesting to the  
24 fact of the person's licensure or certification.

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2 (b) A person graduating from a formal denturism  
3 program shall be licensed if he:

4

5 (i) Documents successful completion of formal  
6 training with a major course of study in denturism of not  
7 less than two (2) years in duration at an educational  
8 institution approved by the board;

9

10 (ii) Passes a written and clinical examination  
11 approved by the board; and

12

13 (iii) Pays the appropriate fees.

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15 **33-15-208. Examinations.**

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17 (a) The board of dental examiners shall administer  
18 the examinations for licensing denturists under this  
19 article, subject to the following requirements:

20

21 (i) Examinations shall determine the  
22 qualifications, fitness and ability of the applicant to  
23 practice denturism. The test shall include a written  
24 examination and a practical demonstration of skills;

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2 (ii) Examinations shall be held at least  
3 annually;

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5 (iii) The first examination shall be conducted  
6 no later than January 1, 2012;

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8 (iv) The written examination shall cover the  
9 following subjects:

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11 (A) Head and oral anatomy and physiology;

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13 (B) Oral pathology;

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15 (C) Partial denture construction and  
16 design;

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18 (D) Microbiology;

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20 (E) Clinical dental technology;

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22 (F) Dental laboratory technology;

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24 (G) Clinical jurisprudence;

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(H) Asepsis;

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(J) Medical emergencies;

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(K) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

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(M) Gerontology.

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(v) The applicant shall be informed in writing by certified mail of the results of his examination within thirty (30) days after the examination. An applicant who fails an examination may apply to the board for a reexamination at the next scheduled examination meeting. Application shall be made in writing and shall be accompanied by a fee as provided in subsection (c) of this section;

(vi) If the applicant fails the board examination three (3) times, he shall show evidence of additional education to the satisfaction of the board before he may be reexamined.

1           (b) The board may hire trained persons licensed under  
2 this article to prepare, administer and grade the  
3 examinations or may contract with regional examiners who  
4 meet qualifications adopted by the board.

5

6           (c) The examination fee shall be set by the board  
7 each year, and all reexamination fees shall be the same as  
8 the current fee for the initial examination. Fees shall be  
9 paid to the secretary of the board before examination. The  
10 fee shall be paid by money order, cashiers' check or  
11 certified check, and in no case shall the fee be refunded.

12

13           **33-15-209. License content.**

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15           (a) The administrative procedures, administrative  
16 requirements and fees for denturism shall be determined by  
17 the board as provided for under this article.

18

19           (b) The license shall contain, on its face, the  
20 address and addresses where the license holder will perform  
21 the denturist services.

22

23           **33-15-210. Renewal license.**

24

1 The board shall establish by rule the requirements for  
2 renewal of licenses to practice denturism, but shall not  
3 increase the licensure requirements provided for denturism  
4 in this article.

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6 **33-15-211. Grounds and procedure for revocation or**  
7 **suspension of license.**

8

9 (a) Any denturist may have his license revoked or  
10 suspended by the board for any of the following causes:

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12 (i) Conviction of a felony or high misdemeanor  
13 involving moral turpitude, in which case the record of  
14 conviction certified by the clerk or judge of the court in  
15 which the conviction is had is conclusive evidence;

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17 (ii) For renting or loaning to any person his  
18 license or diploma to be used as a license or diploma for  
19 such person;

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21 (iii) For unprofessional conduct, advertising or  
22 soliciting patients in any form of communication in a  
23 manner that is false or misleading in any material respect;

24 or

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2 (iv) Willful violation of any provisions of this  
3 article.

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5 (b) The proceedings under this section may be taken  
6 by the board from matters within its knowledge or upon  
7 information from another. If the informant is a member of  
8 the board, the other members of the board shall take action  
9 on behalf of the board. All complaints shall be in  
10 writing, verified by a party familiar with the facts  
11 charged, and shall be filed with the secretary of the  
12 board. Upon receiving the complaint, the board, if it  
13 deems the complaint sufficient, shall proceed as in a  
14 contested case under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure  
15 Act. Upon revocation of any license, the fact shall be  
16 noted upon the records of the board and the license shall  
17 be marked revoked upon the date of its revocation. The  
18 secretary of the board, upon judgment of suspension or  
19 revocation being entered, shall transmit to the secretary  
20 of state a copy of the judgment order, certified by the  
21 secretary of the board, and the same shall be kept in the  
22 same manner as the list of licensed dentists.

23

1           (c) Upon receipt from the department of family  
2 services of a certified copy of an order from a court to  
3 withhold, suspend or otherwise restrict a denturist license  
4 issued by the board, the board shall notify the party named  
5 in the court order of the withholding, suspension or  
6 restriction of the license in accordance with the terms of  
7 the court order. No appeal under the Wyoming  
8 Administrative Procedure Act shall be allowed for a license  
9 withheld, suspended or restricted under this subsection.

10

11           **33-15-212. Renewal license certificate.**

12

13           (a) On or before December 31 of each year, each  
14 denturist licensed to practice denturism in this state,  
15 upon receipt of written notice, shall transmit to the  
16 secretary of the board his signature and address, together  
17 with a fee determined by the board and the number of his  
18 license, and receive therefore a renewal license  
19 certificate. Any license granted by the board shall be  
20 cancelled after ten (10) days written notice sent to the  
21 holder by registered mail if the holder fails to secure the  
22 renewal certificate within three (3) months after December  
23 31 each year, but any license so cancelled may be restored  
24 by the board upon the payment of a fee as set by the board,

1 if paid by December 31 of the year in which the license is  
2 cancelled.

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4 (b) Commencing January 1, 2016, any denturist whose  
5 application for renewal indicates that he has not actively  
6 practiced denturism or engaged in teaching denturism for  
7 any of the preceding five (5) years shall be issued a  
8 renewal certificate by the board only after a hearing and  
9 upon notice to the applicant, wherein the applicant  
10 demonstrates to the board that he has maintained the  
11 qualifications set forth in this article. No reexamination  
12 is required unless the board finds good cause to believe  
13 that the person has not maintained the professional ability  
14 and knowledge required of an original licensee under this  
15 article.

16

17 (c) The board may set continuing education  
18 requirements for relicensure of denturists.

19

20 **33-15-213. Secretary of state's certificate that no**  
21 **license listed by board is prima facie proof of**  
22 **unauthorized practice.**

23

1 In any prosecution for violation of any provision of this  
2 article the certificate of the secretary of state that the  
3 person accused of the violation of any of those provisions  
4 is not named in the list of denturist presented to him by  
5 the secretary of the board is prima facie proof that the  
6 person is not entitled to practice denturism in Wyoming.

7

8 **33-15-214. Partnerships with dentists.**

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10 Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, a  
11 licensed denturist may enter into a partnership or other  
12 business association with a dentist, provided that the  
13 association does not impede the independent professional  
14 judgment of either party.

15

16 **33-15-215. Violations.**

17

18 Any person who practices denturism without being properly  
19 qualified and licensed, or who violates any provisions of  
20 this article is subject to a fine not to exceed one  
21 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisonment for not more  
22 than two (2) years, or both. Each separate violation of  
23 this article constitutes a separate offense.

24

1           **33-15-216. List of licensees filed with secretary of**  
2 **state.**

3

4 A list of all denturists licensed under this article shall  
5 be published by the board each year. This list shall  
6 contain the name and address of each denturist and such  
7 other information as the board deems advisable. The board  
8 shall place a copy of the list on file in the office of the  
9 secretary of state who shall furnish copies to the public,  
10 upon request.

11

12           **33-15-217. Certificate entitles denturists to**  
13 **practice in any county; lost certificates.**

14

15 The certificate provided for in this article entitles the  
16 holder to practice denturism in any county in Wyoming. The  
17 board, upon satisfactory proof of loss of the certificate  
18 issued under this article, shall issue a new certificate.  
19 The cost of replacement shall be determined by the board  
20 and paid by the person requesting replacement.

21

22           **Section 2.** W.S. 33-15-116 is repealed.

23

1           **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2011.

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(END)