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**SENATE BILL 5685**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Randall

1 AN ACT Relating to the profession of dental therapist; amending  
2 RCW 18.32.030, 18.32.0351, 18.120.020, 18.130.040, 18.260.010,  
3 18.260.040, 18.260.070, 18.260.080, 69.41.010, 69.41.030, and  
4 70.350.020; adding a new chapter to Title 18 RCW; creating a new  
5 section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that good oral  
8 health is an integral piece of overall health and well-being. Without  
9 treatment, dental disease compromises overall health and requires  
10 increasingly costly interventions. However, most dental disease can  
11 be prevented at little cost through routine dental care and disease  
12 prevention.

13 Dental-related issues are a leading reason that Washingtonians  
14 seek care in hospital emergency departments, which has become the  
15 source of care for many, especially uninsured and low-income  
16 populations.

17 It is the intent of the legislature to expand access to oral  
18 health care for all Washingtonians through an evidence-based mid-  
19 level dental provider called a dental therapist. Dental therapy is a  
20 strategy to address racial and ethnic disparities in health and rural  
21 health care access gaps. Dental therapists are also a strategy to

1 increase workforce diversity in health care and expand career  
2 opportunities for existing members of the dental care workforce such  
3 as dental hygienists.

4 It is the legislature's intent that dental therapists will meet  
5 the needs of local communities as they work under the direction of a  
6 licensed Washington dentist. The legislature intends for dental  
7 therapists to be incorporated into the dental care workforce and used  
8 to effectively treat more patients.

9 It is the intent of the legislature to follow the national  
10 commission on dental accreditation's standards for dental therapy  
11 education. This will ensure that dental therapists are trained to the  
12 highest quality standards and provide state-to-state consistency. It  
13 is the intent of the legislature that incorporating the commission on  
14 dental accreditation's standards for dental therapy education will  
15 pave the way for Washington education institutions to become  
16 accredited programs and for students to qualify for financial aid.

17 It is also the intent of the legislature to provide an efficient  
18 and reasonable pathway, through a limited license, for federally  
19 certified dental health aide therapists or tribally licensed dental  
20 therapists to become a Washington state licensed dental therapist.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
22 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
23 otherwise.

24 (1) "Close supervision of a dentist" means that a supervising  
25 dentist:

26 (a) Has personally examined and diagnosed the patient and has  
27 personally authorized the procedures to be performed;

28 (b) Is continuously on-site while the procedure in question is  
29 being performed; and

30 (c) Is capable of responding immediately in the event of an  
31 emergency.

32 (2) "Committee" means the dental hygiene examining committee  
33 established in chapter 18.29 RCW.

34 (3) "Dental therapist" means a person licensed to practice dental  
35 therapy under this chapter.

36 (4) "Dental therapy" means the services and procedures specified  
37 in section 5 of this act.

38 (5) "Dentist" means a person licensed to practice dentistry under  
39 chapter 18.32 RCW.

1 (6) "Department" means the department of health.

2 (7) "Off-site supervision" means supervision that does not  
3 require the dentist to be physically present or to personally examine  
4 or diagnose the patient.

5 (8) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** No person may practice dental therapy or  
7 represent himself or herself as a dental therapist without being  
8 licensed by the department under this chapter.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department shall issue a license  
10 to practice as a dental therapist to any applicant who:

11 (a) Pays any applicable fees established by the secretary under  
12 RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250;

13 (b) Submits, on forms provided by the secretary, the applicant's  
14 name, address, and other applicable information as determined by the  
15 secretary;

16 (c) Completes a preceptorship of at least 400 hours under the  
17 close supervision of a dentist;

18 (d) Passes an examination approved by the committee; and

19 (e) Successfully completes a dental therapist program that is  
20 accredited, or has received initial accreditation, by the commission  
21 on dental accreditation.

22 (2) (a) The secretary shall establish the date and location of the  
23 examination. Applicants who meet the education requirements for  
24 licensure must be scheduled for the next examination following the  
25 filing of the application. The secretary shall establish by rule the  
26 examination application deadline.

27 (b) The examination must contain subjects appropriate to the  
28 scope of practice and questions on laws in the state of Washington  
29 regulating dental therapy practice.

30 (c) The committee shall establish by rule the requirements for a  
31 reexamination if the applicant has failed the examination.

32 (d) The committee may approve an examination prepared or  
33 administered by a private testing agency or association of licensing  
34 authorities.

35 (3) The secretary in consultation with the committee may  
36 establish by rule the procedures to implement this section.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) Subject to the limitations in this  
2 section and section 6 of this act, a dental therapist may provide the  
3 following services and procedures:

4        (a) Oral health instruction and disease prevention education,  
5 including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis;

6        (b) Preliminary charting of the oral cavity;

7        (c) Making radiographs;

8        (d) Mechanical polishing;

9        (e) Prophylaxis;

10       (f) Periodontal scaling and root planing;

11       (g) Application of topical preventative or prophylactic agents,  
12 including fluoride varnishes and pit and fissure sealants;

13       (h) Pulp vitality testing;

14       (i) Application of desensitizing medication or resin;

15       (j) Fabrication of athletic mouth guards;

16       (k) Placement of temporary restorations;

17       (l) Fabrication of soft occlusal guards;

18       (m) Tissue conditioning and soft reline;

19       (n) Atraumatic restorative therapy and interim restorative  
20 therapy;

21       (o) Dressing changes;

22       (p) Tooth reimplantation;

23       (q) Administration of local anesthetic;

24       (r) Administration of nitrous oxide;

25       (s) Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain;

26       (t) The placement and removal of space maintainers;

27       (u) Cavity preparation;

28       (v) Restoration of primary and permanent teeth;

29       (w) Placement of temporary crowns;

30       (x) Preparation and placement of preformed crowns;

31       (y) Pulpotomies on primary teeth;

32       (z) Indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent  
33 teeth;

34       (aa) Stabilization of reimplanted teeth;

35       (bb) Extractions of primary teeth;

36       (cc) Suture placement and removal;

37       (dd) Brush biopsies;

38       (ee) Repair of defective prosthetic devices;

39       (ff) Recementing of permanent crowns;

1 (gg) Oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease and the  
2 formulation of an individualized treatment plan;

3 (hh) The supervision of expanded function dental auxiliaries and  
4 dental assistants. However, a dental therapist may supervise no more  
5 than a total of four expanded function dental auxiliaries and dental  
6 assistants at any one time in any one practice setting. A dental  
7 therapist may not supervise an expanded function dental auxiliary or  
8 dental assistant with respect to tasks that the dental therapist is  
9 not authorized to perform;

10 (ii) Nonsurgical extractions of periodontally diseased permanent  
11 teeth with tooth mobility of plus 3 to plus 4 if the teeth are not  
12 unerupted, are not impacted, are not fractured, and do not need to be  
13 sectioned for removal; and

14 (jj) The dispensation and oral administration of drugs pursuant  
15 to subsection (2) of this section.

16 (2) (a) A dental therapist may dispense and orally administer the  
17 following drugs within the parameters of the practice plan contract  
18 established in section 6 of this act: Nonnarcotic analgesics, anti-  
19 inflammatory, preventive agents, and antibiotics.

20 (b) The authority to dispense and orally administer drugs extends  
21 only to the drugs identified in this subsection and may be further  
22 limited by the practice plan contract.

23 (c) The authority to dispense includes the authority to dispense  
24 sample drugs within the categories established in this subsection if  
25 the dispensing is permitted under the practice plan contract.

26 (d) A dental therapist may not dispense or administer narcotic  
27 drugs as defined in chapter 69.50 RCW.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A dental therapist may only practice  
29 dental therapy under the supervision of a dentist licensed under  
30 chapter 18.32 RCW and pursuant to a written practice plan contract  
31 with the supervising dentist. In circumstances authorized by the  
32 supervising dentist in the written practice plan contract, a dental  
33 therapist may provide services without the prior examination or  
34 diagnosis of a dentist and without the dentist being personally on  
35 site when services are provided. The contract must, at a minimum,  
36 contain the following elements:

37 (a) The level of supervision required and circumstances when the  
38 prior knowledge and consent of the supervising dentist is required;

1 (b) Practice settings where services and procedures may be  
2 provided;

3 (c) Any limitations on the services or procedures the dental  
4 therapist may provide;

5 (d) Age and procedure-specific practice protocols, including case  
6 selection criteria, assessment guidelines, and imaging frequency;

7 (e) Procedures for creating and maintaining dental records for  
8 patients treated by the dental therapist;

9 (f) A plan to manage medical emergencies in each practice setting  
10 where the dental therapist provides care;

11 (g) A quality assurance plan for monitoring care provided by the  
12 dental therapist or, including patient care review, referral follow-  
13 up, and a quality assurance chart review;

14 (h) Protocols for administering and dispensing medications,  
15 including the specific circumstances under which the medications may  
16 be dispensed and administered;

17 (i) Criteria relating to the provision of care to patients with  
18 specific medical conditions or complex medical histories, including  
19 requirements for consultation prior to the initiation of care; and

20 (j) Specific written protocols governing situations where the  
21 dental therapist encounters a patient requiring treatment that  
22 exceeds the dental therapist's scope of practice or capabilities and  
23 protocols for referral of patients requiring evaluation and treatment  
24 by dentists, physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, or  
25 other health care providers.

26 (2) The supervising dentist shall accept responsibility for all  
27 services and procedures authorized and provided by the dental  
28 therapist pursuant to the practice plan contract.

29 (3) A supervising dentist who knowingly permits a dental  
30 therapist to provide a service or procedure that is not authorized in  
31 the practice plan contract, or any dental therapist who provides a  
32 service or procedure that is not authorized in the practice plan  
33 contract, commits unprofessional conduct for purposes of chapter  
34 18.130 RCW.

35 (4) A dentist who enters into a written practice plan contract  
36 with a dental therapist shall:

37 (a) Directly provide or arrange for another dentist or specialist  
38 to provide any necessary advanced procedures or services needed by  
39 the patient or any treatment that exceeds the dental therapist's  
40 scope of practice or capabilities;

1 (b) Ensure that he or she or another dentist is available to the  
2 dental therapist for timely communication during treatment if needed.

3 (5) A dental therapist shall perform only those services  
4 authorized by the supervising dentist and written practice plan  
5 contract and shall maintain an appropriate level of contact with the  
6 supervising dentist.

7 (6) Practice plan contracts must be signed and maintained by both  
8 the supervising dentist and the dental therapist.

9 (7) A supervising dentist may supervise no more than a total of  
10 five dental therapists at any one time.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Nothing in this chapter prohibits or  
12 affects:

13 (1) The practice of dental therapy by an individual otherwise  
14 licensed under this title and performing services within his or her  
15 scope of practice;

16 (2) The practice of dental therapy in the discharge of official  
17 duties on behalf of the United States government, including, but not  
18 limited to, the armed forces, coast guard, public health service,  
19 veterans' bureau, or bureau of Indian affairs;

20 (3) The practice of dental therapy pursuant to an education  
21 program described in section 4 of this act;

22 (4) The practice of dental therapy under the supervision of a  
23 dentist necessary to meet the clinical experience or preceptorship  
24 requirements of section 4 of this act; or

25 (5) The practice of federally certified dental health aide  
26 therapists or tribally licensed dental therapists practicing in  
27 clinics operated by an Indian health service, Indian health service  
28 direct, tribal 638, or an urban Indian health program system of care,  
29 as those terms are defined in the Indian health care improvement act,  
30 Title 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1603(12), (25) and (29).

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A dental therapist may practice only in  
32 the following settings:

33 (1) Federally qualified health centers;

34 (2) Clinics operated by accredited schools of dentistry or dental  
35 hygiene;

36 (3) Clinics operated by an Indian health service, Indian health  
37 service direct, tribal 638, or an urban Indian health program system

1 of care, as those terms are defined in the Indian health care  
2 improvement act, Title 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1603(12), (25) and (29); or

3 (4) Any other clinic or practice setting, including mobile or  
4 temporary dental clinics, in which at least thirty-five percent of  
5 the total patient base of the dental therapist consists of patients  
6 who:

7 (a) Are enrolled in a Washington state medicaid program;

8 (b) Have a medical disability or chronic condition that creates a  
9 significant barrier to receiving dental care; or

10 (c) Have annual incomes of less than one hundred thirty-three  
11 percent of the federal poverty level calculated using modified annual  
12 gross income as defined in section 2002 of P.L. 111-148, as amended,  
13 and do not have dental coverage, either through medicaid or private  
14 insurance.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Chapter 18.130 RCW governs the unlicensed  
16 practice, the issuance and denial of licenses, and the discipline of  
17 persons licensed under this chapter. The dental quality assurance  
18 commission is the disciplining authority under this chapter.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The department shall issue a limited  
20 license to any applicant who, as determined by the secretary:

21 (a) Holds a valid license, certification, or recertification in  
22 another state, Canadian province, or has been certified or licensed  
23 by a federal or tribal governing board in the previous two years,  
24 that allows a substantively equivalent, but not the entire scope of  
25 practice in section 5 of this act;

26 (b) Is currently engaged in active practice in another state,  
27 Canadian province, or tribe;

28 (c) Files with the secretary documentation certifying that the  
29 applicant:

30 (i) Has graduated from a dental therapy school accredited by the  
31 commission on dental accreditation;

32 (ii) Has successfully completed the national dental therapy  
33 examination, or until such time that that exam is developed, the  
34 national dental hygiene examination; and

35 (iii) Is licensed or certified to practice in another state or  
36 Canadian province, or has been certified or licensed by a federal or  
37 tribal governing board in the previous two years;



1 (d) Provides such information as the secretary deems necessary  
2 pertaining to the conditions and criteria of the uniform disciplinary  
3 act, chapter 18.130 RCW;

4 (e) Demonstrates to the secretary knowledge of Washington state  
5 law pertaining to the practice of dental therapy;

6 (f) Pays any required fees; and

7 (g) Meets requirements for AIDS education.

8 (2) The term of the limited license issued under this section is  
9 18 months.

10 (3) A person practicing with a limited license granted under this  
11 section has the authority to perform only those dental therapy  
12 procedures in section 5 of this act that he or she was licensed or  
13 certified to practice in their previous state, tribe, or Canadian  
14 province.

15 (4) Upon demonstration of competency in all procedures in section  
16 5 of this act, the limited license holder may apply for licensure as  
17 a dental therapist under section 4 of this act.

18 (5) For the purposes of this section, "active practice" means 560  
19 hours of practice in the preceding 24 months.

20 **Sec. 11.** RCW 18.32.030 and 2017 c 5 s 5 are each amended to read  
21 as follows:

22 The following practices, acts, and operations are excepted from  
23 the operation of the provisions of this chapter:

24 (1) The rendering of dental relief in emergency cases in the  
25 practice of his or her profession by a physician or surgeon, licensed  
26 as such and registered under the laws of this state, unless the  
27 physician or surgeon undertakes to or does reproduce lost parts of  
28 the human teeth in the mouth or to restore or to replace in the human  
29 mouth lost or missing teeth;

30 (2) The practice of dentistry in the discharge of official duties  
31 by dentists in the United States federal services on federal  
32 reservations, including but not limited to the armed services, coast  
33 guard, public health service, veterans' bureau, or bureau of Indian  
34 affairs;

35 (3) Dental schools or colleges approved under RCW 18.32.040, and  
36 the practice of dentistry by students in accredited dental schools or  
37 colleges approved by the commission, when acting under the direction  
38 and supervision of Washington state-licensed dental school faculty;

1 (4) The practice of dentistry by licensed dentists of other  
2 states or countries while appearing as clinicians at meetings of the  
3 Washington state dental association, or component parts thereof, or  
4 at meetings sanctioned by them, or other groups approved by the  
5 commission;

6 (5) The use of roentgen and other rays for making radiographs or  
7 similar records of dental or oral tissues, under the supervision of a  
8 licensed dentist or physician;

9 (6) The making, repairing, altering, or supplying of artificial  
10 restorations, substitutions, appliances, or materials for the  
11 correction of disease, loss, deformity, malposition, dislocation,  
12 fracture, injury to the jaws, teeth, lips, gums, cheeks, palate, or  
13 associated tissues or parts; providing the same are made, repaired,  
14 altered, or supplied pursuant to the written instructions and order  
15 of a licensed dentist which may be accompanied by casts, models, or  
16 impressions furnished by the dentist, and the prescriptions shall be  
17 retained and filed for a period of not less than three years and  
18 shall be available to and subject to the examination of the secretary  
19 or the secretary's authorized representatives;

20 (7) The removal of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the  
21 teeth, the application of topical preventative or prophylactic  
22 agents, and the polishing and smoothing of restorations, when  
23 performed or prescribed by a dental hygienist licensed under the laws  
24 of this state;

25 (8) A qualified and licensed physician and surgeon or osteopathic  
26 physician and surgeon extracting teeth or performing oral surgery  
27 pursuant to the scope of practice under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW;

28 (9) The performing of dental operations or services by registered  
29 dental assistants and licensed expanded function dental auxiliaries  
30 holding a credential issued under chapter 18.260 RCW when performed  
31 under the supervision of a licensed dentist, by dental therapists  
32 licensed under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section  
33 22 of this act), or by other persons not licensed under this chapter  
34 if the person is licensed pursuant to chapter 18.29, 18.57, 18.71, or  
35 18.79 RCW as it applies to registered nurses and advanced registered  
36 nurse practitioners, each while acting within the scope of the  
37 person's permitted practice under the person's license: PROVIDED  
38 HOWEVER, That such persons shall in no event perform the following  
39 dental operations or services unless permitted to be performed by the  
40 person under this chapter or chapters 18.29, 18.57, 18.71, 18.79 as

1 it applies to registered nurses and advanced registered nurse  
2 practitioners, and 18.260 RCW:

3 (a) Any removal of or addition to the hard or soft tissue of the  
4 oral cavity;

5 (b) Any diagnosis of or prescription for treatment of disease,  
6 pain, deformity, deficiency, injury, or physical condition of the  
7 human teeth or jaws, or adjacent structure;

8 (c) Any administration of general or injected local anaesthetic  
9 of any nature in connection with a dental operation, including  
10 intravenous sedation;

11 (d) Any oral prophylaxis;

12 (e) The taking of any impressions of the teeth or jaw or the  
13 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating  
14 any intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis;

15 (10) The performing of dental services described in RCW  
16 18.350.040 by dental anesthesia assistants certified under chapter  
17 18.350 RCW when working under the supervision and direction of an  
18 oral and maxillofacial surgeon or dental anesthesiologist; and

19 (11) The performance of dental health aide therapist services to  
20 the extent authorized under chapter 70.350 RCW.

21 **Sec. 12.** RCW 18.32.0351 and 2022 c 240 s 1 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 The Washington state dental quality assurance commission is  
24 established, consisting of (~~seventeen~~) 19 members each appointed by  
25 the governor to a four-year term. No member may serve more than two  
26 consecutive full terms. Members of the commission hold office until  
27 their successors are appointed. All members shall be appointed to  
28 full four-year terms. Twelve members of the commission must be  
29 dentists, two members must be dental therapists licensed under  
30 chapter 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 22 of this  
31 act), two members must be expanded function dental auxiliaries  
32 licensed under chapter 18.260 RCW, and three members must be public  
33 members.

34 **Sec. 13.** RCW 18.120.020 and 2020 c 80 s 22 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
37 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (1) "Applicant group" includes any health professional group or  
2 organization, any individual, or any other interested party which  
3 proposes that any health professional group not presently regulated  
4 be regulated or which proposes to substantially increase the scope of  
5 practice of the profession.

6 (2) "Certificate" and "certification" mean a voluntary process by  
7 which a statutory regulatory entity grants recognition to an  
8 individual who (a) has met certain prerequisite qualifications  
9 specified by that regulatory entity, and (b) may assume or use  
10 "certified" in the title or designation to perform prescribed health  
11 professional tasks.

12 (3) "Grandfather clause" means a provision in a regulatory  
13 statute applicable to practitioners actively engaged in the regulated  
14 health profession prior to the effective date of the regulatory  
15 statute which exempts the practitioners from meeting the prerequisite  
16 qualifications set forth in the regulatory statute to perform  
17 prescribed occupational tasks.

18 (4) "Health professions" means and includes the following health  
19 and health-related licensed or regulated professions and occupations:  
20 Podiatric medicine and surgery under chapter 18.22 RCW; chiropractic  
21 under chapter 18.25 RCW; dental hygiene under chapter 18.29 RCW;  
22 dentistry under chapter 18.32 RCW; denturism under chapter 18.30 RCW;  
23 dental anesthesia assistants under chapter 18.350 RCW; dental  
24 therapists licensed under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created  
25 in section 22 of this act); dispensing opticians under chapter 18.34  
26 RCW; hearing instruments under chapter 18.35 RCW; naturopaths under  
27 chapter 18.36A RCW; embalming and funeral directing under chapter  
28 18.39 RCW; midwifery under chapter 18.50 RCW; nursing home  
29 administration under chapter 18.52 RCW; optometry under chapters  
30 18.53 and 18.54 RCW; ocularists under chapter 18.55 RCW; osteopathic  
31 medicine and surgery under chapter 18.57 RCW; pharmacy under chapters  
32 18.64 and 18.64A RCW; medicine under chapters 18.71 and 18.71A RCW;  
33 emergency medicine under chapter 18.73 RCW; physical therapy under  
34 chapter 18.74 RCW; practical nurses under chapter 18.79 RCW;  
35 psychologists under chapter 18.83 RCW; registered nurses under  
36 chapter 18.79 RCW; occupational therapists licensed under chapter  
37 18.59 RCW; respiratory care practitioners licensed under chapter  
38 18.89 RCW; veterinarians and veterinary technicians under chapter  
39 18.92 RCW; massage therapists under chapter 18.108 RCW;  
40 acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioners

1 licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW; persons registered under chapter  
2 18.19 RCW; persons licensed as mental health counselors, marriage and  
3 family therapists, and social workers under chapter 18.225 RCW;  
4 dietitians and nutritionists certified by chapter 18.138 RCW;  
5 radiologic technicians under chapter 18.84 RCW; nursing assistants  
6 registered or certified under chapter 18.88A RCW; reflexologists  
7 certified under chapter 18.108 RCW; medical assistants-certified,  
8 medical assistants-hemodialysis technician, medical assistants-  
9 phlebotomist, forensic phlebotomist, and medical assistants-  
10 registered certified and registered under chapter 18.360 RCW; and  
11 licensed behavior analysts, licensed assistant behavior analysts, and  
12 certified behavior technicians under chapter 18.380 RCW.

13 (5) "Inspection" means the periodic examination of practitioners  
14 by a state agency in order to ascertain whether the practitioners'  
15 occupation is being carried out in a fashion consistent with the  
16 public health, safety, and welfare.

17 (6) "Legislative committees of reference" means the standing  
18 legislative committees designated by the respective rules committees  
19 of the senate and house of representatives to consider proposed  
20 legislation to regulate health professions not previously regulated.

21 (7) "License," "licensing," and "licensure" mean permission to  
22 engage in a health profession which would otherwise be unlawful in  
23 the state in the absence of the permission. A license is granted to  
24 those individuals who meet prerequisite qualifications to perform  
25 prescribed health professional tasks and for the use of a particular  
26 title.

27 (8) "Practitioner" means an individual who (a) has achieved  
28 knowledge and skill by practice, and (b) is actively engaged in a  
29 specified health profession.

30 (9) "Professional license" means an individual, nontransferable  
31 authorization to carry on a health activity based on qualifications  
32 which include: (a) Graduation from an accredited or approved program,  
33 and (b) acceptable performance on a qualifying examination or series  
34 of examinations.

35 (10) "Public member" means an individual who is not, and never  
36 was, a member of the health profession being regulated or the spouse  
37 of a member, or an individual who does not have and never has had a  
38 material financial interest in either the rendering of the health  
39 professional service being regulated or an activity directly related  
40 to the profession being regulated.

1 (11) "Registration" means the formal notification which, prior to  
2 rendering services, a practitioner shall submit to a state agency  
3 setting forth the name and address of the practitioner; the location,  
4 nature and operation of the health activity to be practiced; and, if  
5 required by the regulatory entity, a description of the service to be  
6 provided.

7 (12) "Regulatory entity" means any board, commission, agency,  
8 division, or other unit or subunit of state government which  
9 regulates one or more professions, occupations, industries,  
10 businesses, or other endeavors in this state.

11 (13) "State agency" includes every state office, department,  
12 board, commission, regulatory entity, and agency of the state, and,  
13 where provided by law, programs and activities involving less than  
14 the full responsibility of a state agency.

15 **Sec. 14.** RCW 18.130.040 and 2022 c 217 s 5 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) This chapter applies only to the secretary and the boards and  
18 commissions having jurisdiction in relation to the professions  
19 licensed under the chapters specified in this section. This chapter  
20 does not apply to any business or profession not licensed under the  
21 chapters specified in this section.

22 (2)(a) The secretary has authority under this chapter in relation  
23 to the following professions:

24 (i) Dispensing opticians licensed and designated apprentices  
25 under chapter 18.34 RCW;

26 (ii) Midwives licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW;

27 (iii) Ocularists licensed under chapter 18.55 RCW;

28 (iv) Massage therapists and businesses licensed under chapter  
29 18.108 RCW;

30 (v) Dental hygienists licensed under chapter 18.29 RCW;

31 (vi) Acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine  
32 practitioners licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW;

33 (vii) Radiologic technologists certified and X-ray technicians  
34 registered under chapter 18.84 RCW;

35 (viii) Respiratory care practitioners licensed under chapter  
36 18.89 RCW;

37 (ix) Hypnotherapists and agency affiliated counselors registered  
38 and advisors and counselors certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;

1 (x) Persons licensed as mental health counselors, mental health  
2 counselor associates, marriage and family therapists, marriage and  
3 family therapist associates, social workers, social work associates—  
4 advanced, and social work associates—independent clinical under  
5 chapter 18.225 RCW;

6 (xi) Persons registered as nursing pool operators under chapter  
7 18.52C RCW;

8 (xii) Nursing assistants registered or certified or medication  
9 assistants endorsed under chapter 18.88A RCW;

10 (xiii) Dietitians and nutritionists certified under chapter  
11 18.138 RCW;

12 (xiv) Substance use disorder professionals, substance use  
13 disorder professional trainees, or co-occurring disorder specialists  
14 certified under chapter 18.205 RCW;

15 (xv) Sex offender treatment providers and certified affiliate sex  
16 offender treatment providers certified under chapter 18.155 RCW;

17 (xvi) Persons licensed and certified under chapter 18.73 RCW or  
18 RCW 18.71.205;

19 (xvii) Orthotists and prosthetists licensed under chapter 18.200  
20 RCW;

21 (xviii) Surgical technologists registered under chapter 18.215  
22 RCW;

23 (xix) Recreational therapists under chapter 18.230 RCW;

24 (xx) Animal massage therapists certified under chapter 18.240  
25 RCW;

26 (xxi) Athletic trainers licensed under chapter 18.250 RCW;

27 (xxii) Home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW;

28 (xxiii) Genetic counselors licensed under chapter 18.290 RCW;

29 (xxiv) Reflexologists certified under chapter 18.108 RCW;

30 (xxv) Medical assistants-certified, medical assistants-  
31 hemodialysis technician, medical assistants-phlebotomist, forensic  
32 phlebotomist, and medical assistants-registered certified and  
33 registered under chapter 18.360 RCW;

34 (xxvi) Behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, and  
35 behavior technicians under chapter 18.380 RCW; and

36 (xxvii) Birth doula certified under chapter 18.47 RCW.

37 (b) The boards and commissions having authority under this  
38 chapter are as follows:

39 (i) The podiatric medical board as established in chapter 18.22  
40 RCW;

1 (ii) The chiropractic quality assurance commission as established  
2 in chapter 18.25 RCW;

3 (iii) The dental quality assurance commission as established in  
4 chapter 18.32 RCW governing licenses issued under chapter 18.32 RCW,  
5 licenses and registrations issued under chapter 18.260 RCW, licenses  
6 issued under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section  
7 22 of this act), and certifications issued under chapter 18.350 RCW;

8 (iv) The board of hearing and speech as established in chapter  
9 18.35 RCW;

10 (v) The board of examiners for nursing home administrators as  
11 established in chapter 18.52 RCW;

12 (vi) The optometry board as established in chapter 18.54 RCW  
13 governing licenses issued under chapter 18.53 RCW;

14 (vii) The board of osteopathic medicine and surgery as  
15 established in chapter 18.57 RCW governing licenses issued under  
16 chapter 18.57 RCW;

17 (viii) The pharmacy quality assurance commission as established  
18 in chapter 18.64 RCW governing licenses issued under chapters 18.64  
19 and 18.64A RCW;

20 (ix) The Washington medical commission as established in chapter  
21 18.71 RCW governing licenses and registrations issued under chapters  
22 18.71 and 18.71A RCW;

23 (x) The board of physical therapy as established in chapter 18.74  
24 RCW;

25 (xi) The board of occupational therapy practice as established in  
26 chapter 18.59 RCW;

27 (xii) The nursing care quality assurance commission as  
28 established in chapter 18.79 RCW governing licenses and registrations  
29 issued under that chapter;

30 (xiii) The examining board of psychology and its disciplinary  
31 committee as established in chapter 18.83 RCW;

32 (xiv) The veterinary board of governors as established in chapter  
33 18.92 RCW;

34 (xv) The board of naturopathy established in chapter 18.36A RCW,  
35 governing licenses and certifications issued under that chapter; and

36 (xvi) The board of denturists established in chapter 18.30 RCW.

37 (3) In addition to the authority to discipline license holders,  
38 the disciplining authority has the authority to grant or deny  
39 licenses. The disciplining authority may also grant a license subject  
40 to conditions.



1 (4) All disciplining authorities shall adopt procedures to ensure  
2 substantially consistent application of this chapter, the uniform  
3 disciplinary act, among the disciplining authorities listed in  
4 subsection (2) of this section.

5 **Sec. 15.** RCW 18.260.010 and 2007 c 269 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Close supervision" means that a supervising dentist or  
10 supervising dental therapist whose patient is being treated has  
11 personally diagnosed the condition to be treated and has personally  
12 authorized the procedures to be performed. The supervising dentist or  
13 supervising dental therapist is continuously on-site and physically  
14 present in the treatment facility while the procedures are performed  
15 by the assistive personnel and capable of responding immediately in  
16 the event of an emergency. The term does not require a supervising  
17 dentist or supervising dental therapist to be physically present in  
18 the operatory.

19 (2) "Commission" means the Washington state dental quality  
20 assurance commission created in chapter 18.32 RCW.

21 (3) "Dental assistant" means a person who is registered by the  
22 commission to provide supportive services to a licensed dentist to  
23 the extent provided in this chapter and under the close supervision  
24 of a dentist.

25 (4) "Dental therapist" means an individual who holds a license to  
26 practice as a dental therapist under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new  
27 chapter created in section 22 of this act).

28 (5) "Dentist" means an individual who holds a license to practice  
29 dentistry under chapter 18.32 RCW.

30 ~~((+5))~~ (6) "Department" means the department of health.

31 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Expanded function dental auxiliary" means a person  
32 who is licensed by the commission to provide supportive services to a  
33 licensed dentist or dental therapist to the extent provided in this  
34 chapter and under the specified level of supervision of a dentist or  
35 dental therapist.

36 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "General supervision" means that a supervising  
37 dentist or dental therapist has examined and diagnosed the patient  
38 and provided subsequent instructions to be performed by the assistive

1 personnel, but does not require that the dentist or dental therapist  
2 be physically present in the treatment facility.

3 ~~((8))~~ (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

4 ~~((9))~~ (10) "Supervising dental therapist" means a dental  
5 therapist licensed under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created  
6 in section 22 of this act) who is responsible for providing the  
7 appropriate level of supervision for dental assistants and expanded  
8 function dental auxiliaries.

9 (11) "Supervising dentist" means a dentist licensed under chapter  
10 18.32 RCW that is responsible for providing the appropriate level of  
11 supervision for dental assistants and expanded function dental  
12 auxiliaries.

13 **Sec. 16.** RCW 18.260.040 and 2015 c 120 s 3 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) (a) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the scope of  
16 dental assisting services related to patient care and laboratory  
17 duties that may be performed by dental assistants.

18 (b) In addition to the services and duties authorized by the  
19 rules adopted under (a) of this subsection, a dental assistant may  
20 apply topical anesthetic agents.

21 (c) All dental services performed by dental assistants under (a)  
22 or (b) of this subsection must be performed under the close  
23 supervision of a supervising dentist or supervising dental therapist  
24 as the dentist or dental therapist may allow.

25 (2) In addition to any other limitations established by the  
26 commission, dental assistants may not perform the following  
27 procedures:

28 (a) Any scaling procedure;

29 (b) Any oral prophylaxis, except coronal polishing;

30 (c) Administration of any general or local anesthetic, including  
31 intravenous sedation;

32 (d) Any removal of or addition to the hard or soft tissue of the  
33 oral cavity;

34 (e) Any diagnosis of or prescription for treatment of disease,  
35 pain, deformity, deficiency, injury, or physical condition of the  
36 human teeth, jaw, or adjacent structures; and

37 (f) The taking of any impressions of the teeth or jaw or the  
38 relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating  
39 any intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis, other than

1 impressions allowed as a delegated duty for dental assistants  
2 pursuant to rules adopted by the commission.

3 (3) A dentist or dental therapist may not assign a dental  
4 assistant to perform duties until the dental assistant has  
5 demonstrated skills necessary to perform competently all assigned  
6 duties and responsibilities.

7 **Sec. 17.** RCW 18.260.070 and 2007 c 269 s 6 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the scope of  
10 expanded function dental auxiliary services related to patient care  
11 and laboratory duties that may be performed by expanded function  
12 dental auxiliaries.

13 (2) The scope of expanded function dental auxiliary services that  
14 the commission identifies in subsection (1) of this section includes:

15 (a) In addition to the dental assisting services that a dental  
16 assistant may perform under the close supervision of a supervising  
17 dentist or supervising dental therapist, the performance of the  
18 following services under the general supervision of a supervising  
19 dentist or supervising dental therapist as the dentist or dental  
20 therapist may allow:

21 (i) Performing coronal polishing;

22 (ii) Giving fluoride treatments;

23 (iii) Applying sealants;

24 (iv) Placing dental x-ray film and exposing and developing the  
25 films;

26 (v) Giving patient oral health instruction; and

27 (b) Notwithstanding any prohibitions in RCW 18.260.040, the  
28 performance of the following services under the close supervision of  
29 a supervising dentist or supervising dental therapist as the dentist  
30 or dental therapist may allow:

31 (i) Placing and carving direct restorations; and

32 (ii) Taking final impressions.

33 (3) A dentist or dental therapist may not assign an expanded  
34 function dental auxiliary to perform services until the expanded  
35 function dental auxiliary has demonstrated skills necessary to  
36 perform competently all assigned duties and responsibilities.

37 **Sec. 18.** RCW 18.260.080 and 2007 c 269 s 7 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 A supervising dentist or supervising dental therapist is  
2 responsible for:

3 (1) Maintaining the appropriate level of supervision for dental  
4 assistants and expanded function dental auxiliaries; and

5 (2) Ensuring that the dental assistants and expanded function  
6 dental auxiliaries that the dentist or dental therapist supervises  
7 are able to competently perform the tasks that they are assigned.

8 **Sec. 19.** RCW 69.41.010 and 2020 c 80 s 40 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings  
11 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

12 (1) "Administer" means the direct application of a legend drug  
13 whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or any other means, to  
14 the body of a patient or research subject by:

15 (a) A practitioner; or

16 (b) The patient or research subject at the direction of the  
17 practitioner.

18 (2) "Commission" means the pharmacy quality assurance commission.

19 (3) "Community-based care settings" include: Community  
20 residential programs for persons with developmental disabilities,  
21 certified by the department of social and health services under  
22 chapter 71A.12 RCW; adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128  
23 RCW; and assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW.  
24 Community-based care settings do not include acute care or skilled  
25 nursing facilities.

26 (4) "Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive, or  
27 attempted transfer from one person to another of a legend drug,  
28 whether or not there is an agency relationship.

29 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

30 (6) "Dispense" means the interpretation of a prescription or  
31 order for a legend drug and, pursuant to that prescription or order,  
32 the proper selection, measuring, compounding, labeling, or packaging  
33 necessary to prepare that prescription or order for delivery.

34 (7) "Dispenser" means a practitioner who dispenses.

35 (8) "Distribute" means to deliver other than by administering or  
36 dispensing a legend drug.

37 (9) "Distributor" means a person who distributes.

38 (10) "Drug" means:

1 (a) Substances recognized as drugs in the official United States  
2 pharmacopoeia, official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United  
3 States, or official national formulary, or any supplement to any of  
4 them;

5 (b) Substances intended for use in the diagnosis, cure,  
6 mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in human beings or  
7 animals;

8 (c) Substances (other than food, minerals or vitamins) intended  
9 to affect the structure or any function of the body of human beings  
10 or animals; and

11 (d) Substances intended for use as a component of any article  
12 specified in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection. It does not include  
13 devices or their components, parts, or accessories.

14 (11) "Electronic communication of prescription information" means  
15 the transmission of a prescription or refill authorization for a drug  
16 of a practitioner using computer systems. The term does not include a  
17 prescription or refill authorization transmitted verbally by  
18 telephone nor a facsimile manually signed by the practitioner.

19 (12) "In-home care settings" include an individual's place of  
20 temporary and permanent residence, but does not include acute care or  
21 skilled nursing facilities, and does not include community-based care  
22 settings.

23 (13) "Legend drugs" means any drugs which are required by state  
24 law or regulation of the pharmacy quality assurance commission to be  
25 dispensed on prescription only or are restricted to use by  
26 practitioners only.

27 (14) "Legible prescription" means a prescription or medication  
28 order issued by a practitioner that is capable of being read and  
29 understood by the pharmacist filling the prescription or the nurse or  
30 other practitioner implementing the medication order. A prescription  
31 must be hand printed, typewritten, or electronically generated.

32 (15) "Medication assistance" means assistance rendered by a  
33 nonpractitioner to an individual residing in a community-based care  
34 setting or in-home care setting to facilitate the individual's self-  
35 administration of a legend drug or controlled substance. It includes  
36 reminding or coaching the individual, handing the medication  
37 container to the individual, opening the individual's medication  
38 container, using an enabler, or placing the medication in the  
39 individual's hand, and such other means of medication assistance as  
40 defined by rule adopted by the department. A nonpractitioner may help

1 in the preparation of legend drugs or controlled substances for self-  
2 administration where a practitioner has determined and communicated  
3 orally or by written direction that such medication preparation  
4 assistance is necessary and appropriate. Medication assistance shall  
5 not include assistance with intravenous medications or injectable  
6 medications, except prefilled insulin syringes.

7 (16) "Person" means individual, corporation, government or  
8 governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust,  
9 partnership or association, or any other legal entity.

10 (17) "Practitioner" means:

11 (a) A physician under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician  
12 or an osteopathic physician and surgeon under chapter 18.57 RCW, a  
13 dentist under chapter 18.32 RCW, a podiatric physician and surgeon  
14 under chapter 18.22 RCW, an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern  
15 medicine practitioner to the extent authorized under chapter 18.06  
16 RCW and the rules adopted under RCW 18.06.010(1)(~~(+j)~~) (m), a  
17 veterinarian under chapter 18.92 RCW, a registered nurse, advanced  
18 registered nurse practitioner, or licensed practical nurse under  
19 chapter 18.79 RCW, an optometrist under chapter 18.53 RCW who is  
20 certified by the optometry board under RCW 18.53.010, a physician  
21 assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW, a naturopath licensed under  
22 chapter 18.36A RCW, a licensed athletic trainer to the extent  
23 authorized under chapter 18.250 RCW, a pharmacist under chapter 18.64  
24 RCW, (~~(or,)~~) when acting under the required supervision of a dentist  
25 licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW, a dental hygienist licensed under  
26 chapter 18.29 RCW, or a dental therapist licensed under chapter  
27 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 22 of this act);

28 (b) A pharmacy, hospital, or other institution licensed,  
29 registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct  
30 research with respect to, or to administer a legend drug in the  
31 course of professional practice or research in this state; and

32 (c) A physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a  
33 physician licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in  
34 any state, or province of Canada, which shares a common border with  
35 the state of Washington.

36 (18) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's  
37 designee.

38 **Sec. 20.** RCW 69.41.030 and 2020 c 80 s 41 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, deliver, or  
2 possess any legend drug except upon the order or prescription of a  
3 physician under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician and  
4 surgeon under chapter 18.57 RCW, an optometrist licensed under  
5 chapter 18.53 RCW who is certified by the optometry board under RCW  
6 18.53.010, a dentist under chapter 18.32 RCW, a dental therapist  
7 licensed under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section  
8 22 of this act), a podiatric physician and surgeon under chapter  
9 18.22 RCW, a veterinarian under chapter 18.92 RCW, a commissioned  
10 medical or dental officer in the United States armed forces or public  
11 health service in the discharge of his or her official duties, a duly  
12 licensed physician or dentist employed by the veterans administration  
13 in the discharge of his or her official duties, a registered nurse or  
14 advanced registered nurse practitioner under chapter 18.79 RCW when  
15 authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission, a  
16 pharmacist licensed under chapter 18.64 RCW to the extent permitted  
17 by drug therapy guidelines or protocols established under RCW  
18 18.64.011 and authorized by the commission and approved by a  
19 practitioner authorized to prescribe drugs, a physician assistant  
20 under chapter 18.71A RCW when authorized by the Washington medical  
21 commission, or any of the following professionals in any province of  
22 Canada that shares a common border with the state of Washington or in  
23 any state of the United States: A physician licensed to practice  
24 medicine and surgery or a physician licensed to practice osteopathic  
25 medicine and surgery, a dentist licensed to practice dentistry, a  
26 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed to practice podiatric  
27 medicine and surgery, a licensed advanced registered nurse  
28 practitioner, a licensed physician assistant, or a veterinarian  
29 licensed to practice veterinary medicine: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the  
30 above provisions shall not apply to sale, delivery, or possession by  
31 drug wholesalers or drug manufacturers, or their agents or employees,  
32 or to any practitioner acting within the scope of his or her license,  
33 or to a common or contract carrier or warehouse operator, or any  
34 employee thereof, whose possession of any legend drug is in the usual  
35 course of business or employment: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in  
36 this chapter or chapter 18.64 RCW shall prevent a family planning  
37 clinic that is under contract with the health care authority from  
38 selling, delivering, possessing, and dispensing commercially  
39 prepackaged oral contraceptives prescribed by authorized, licensed  
40 health care practitioners: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this

1 chapter prohibits possession or delivery of legend drugs by an  
2 authorized collector or other person participating in the operation  
3 of a drug take-back program authorized in chapter 69.48 RCW.

4 (2) (a) A violation of this section involving the sale, delivery,  
5 or possession with intent to sell or deliver is a class B felony  
6 punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

7 (b) A violation of this section involving possession is a  
8 misdemeanor.

9 **Sec. 21.** RCW 70.350.020 and 2017 c 5 s 2 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) Dental health aide therapist services are authorized by this  
12 chapter under the following conditions:

13 (a) The person providing services is certified as a dental health  
14 aide therapist by:

15 (i) A federal community health aide program certification board;  
16 or

17 (ii) A federally recognized Indian tribe that has adopted  
18 certification standards that meet or exceed the requirements of a  
19 federal community health aide program certification board;

20 (b) All services are performed:

21 (i) In a practice setting (~~within the exterior boundaries of a~~  
22 ~~tribal reservation~~) and operated by an Indian health (~~program~~)  
23 service, Indian health service direct, tribal 638, or an urban Indian  
24 health program system of care, as those terms are defined in the  
25 Indian health care improvement act, Title 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1603(12),  
26 (25) and (29);

27 (ii) In accordance with the standards adopted by the certifying  
28 body in (a) of this subsection, including scope of practice,  
29 training, supervision, and continuing education;

30 (iii) Pursuant to any applicable written standing orders by a  
31 supervising dentist; and

32 (iv) On persons who are members of a federally recognized tribe  
33 or otherwise eligible for services under Indian health service  
34 criteria, pursuant to the Indian health care improvement act, Title  
35 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1601 et seq.

36 (2) The performance of dental health aide therapist services is  
37 authorized for a person when working within the scope, supervision,  
38 and direction of a dental health aide therapy training program that



1 is certified by an entity described in subsection (1) of this  
2 section.

3 (3) All services performed within the scope of subsection (1) or  
4 (2) of this section, including the employment or supervision of such  
5 services, are exempt from licensing requirements under chapters  
6 18.29, 18.32, 18.260, and 18.350 RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act  
8 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 23.** The department of health and the dental  
10 quality assurance commission shall adopt any rules necessary to  
11 implement this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 24.** Section 10 of this act is necessary for  
13 the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or  
14 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
15 and takes effect immediately.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 25.** Sections 1 through 9 and 11 through 21 of  
17 this act take effect January 1, 2024.

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