

Senate Engrossed

dental board; oral preventive assistants

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SENATE BILL 1124

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 32, CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 32-1291.02; RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF DENTAL
EXAMINERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 32, chapter 11, article 4, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 32-1291.02, to read:

4 32-1291.02. Oral preventive assistants; qualifications; scope
5 of practice; supervision; definition

6 A. IN ORDER TO PRACTICE AS AN ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT, A DENTAL
7 ASSISTANT SHALL COMPLETE A BOARD-APPROVED ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT
8 TRAINING COURSE THAT INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED TWENTY HOURS OF
9 DIDACTIC AND CLINICAL INSTRUCTION WITH PATIENTS AND THAT IS PROVIDED BY A
10 QUALIFYING INSTITUTION. BEFORE TAKING AN ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT
11 TRAINING COURSE, A DENTAL ASSISTANT MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

12 1. HOLD A CURRENT CERTIFICATION IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION.

13 2. HOLD A BOARD-APPROVED CERTIFICATION FOR BOTH CORONAL POLISHING
14 AND RADIOGRAPHY.

15 3. EITHER:

16 (a) HOLD A CURRENT NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION IN DENTAL
17 ASSISTING.

18 (b) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATIONAL
19 PROGRAM ACCREDITED BY A STATE OR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT ACCREDITS
20 DENTAL PROGRAMS.

21 B. THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR AN ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT IS
22 LIMITED TO REMOVING PLAQUE, CALCULUS AND STAINS, WITH SCALERS OR SONIC OR
23 ULTRASONIC SCALING DEVICES, ON PATIENTS WHO HAVE FIRST RECEIVED A
24 PERIODONTAL EVALUATION BY A DENTIST OR DENTAL HYGIENIST. AN ORAL
25 PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT MAY PRACTICE ONLY ON PERIODONTALLY HEALTHY PATIENTS
26 OR PATIENTS WITH LOCALIZED MILD GINGIVITIS. AN ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT
27 MAY NOT USE ANY AIR POLISHING TECHNOLOGY OR DEVICE OR PRACTICE ON PATIENTS
28 WHO HAVE BEEN TREATED FOR PERIODONTAL DISEASE, HAVE GENERALIZED RECESSION,
29 ARE MEDICALLY COMPROMISED OR ARE UNDER SEDATION.

30 C. AN ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT WHO PROVIDES CORONAL CALCULUS
31 REMOVAL SERVICES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BOTH:

32 1. INFORM EACH PATIENT AND DOCUMENT IN THE PATIENT'S CLINICAL
33 RECORD THAT THE PATIENT'S CARE WAS NOT PROVIDED BY A LICENSED DENTAL
34 PROVIDER.

35 2. PROMINENTLY POST THE ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT'S CERTIFICATE OF
36 COMPLETION OF AN APPROVED COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AT THE LOCATION WHERE THE
37 CORONAL CALCULUS REMOVAL SERVICES ARE PERFORMED.

38 D. AN ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT MAY PRACTICE IN THIS STATE ONLY
39 UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A DENTIST OR DENTAL HYGIENIST. A DENTIST
40 MAY SUPERVISE NOT MORE THAN THREE ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANTS AT THE SAME
41 TIME. A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY SUPERVISE NOT MORE THAN ONE ORAL PREVENTIVE
42 ASSISTANT AT ANY TIME. A DENTIST OR DENTAL HYGIENIST WHO ALLOWS AN ORAL
43 PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT TO PERFORM CORONAL CALCULUS REMOVAL SERVICES IN
44 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION COMMITS AN ACT OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

1 E. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "QUALIFYING INSTITUTION" MEANS
2 AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, THAT
3 PROVIDES A DENTAL OR DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE
4 COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR.

5 Sec. 2. Oral preventive assistants; complaints; report;
6 delayed repeal

7 A. The state board of dental examiners in coordination with a
8 statewide association representing dentists in this state shall collect
9 data regarding the number of oral preventive assistants who are practicing
10 in this state, the location of their practice and the number of complaints
11 that are filed against dentists pertaining to oral preventive assistants.
12 On or before January 1, 2029, the state board of dental examiners shall
13 report this information to the governor, the president of the senate and
14 the speaker of the house of representatives and shall provide a copy of
15 the report to the secretary of state.

16 B. This section is repealed from and after June 30, 2029.