

Hi HGO,

This afternoon you are scheduled to take testimony on S.20 (dental therapists) in a joint hearing with House Human Services. Unfortunately I am already scheduled to be in SGO at that time and likely can't make this joint hearing, so I wanted to give you the following general overview of what S.20 would do:

S.20 would establish a new profession of licensed dental practice called a "dental therapist." The current dental professions – in order of education and experience requirements – are dental assistants (registered), dental hygienists (licensed), and dentists (licensed). A dental therapist would be below a dentist in this hierarchy. Like the three existing professions, dental therapists would be regulated by the Board of Dental Examiners within the Office of Professional Regulation.

A dental therapist would be able to do many of the things that a dentist could do, but would be required to practice under a dentist's supervision under a collaborative agreement. The collaborative agreement would establish the parameters of the dental therapist's practice. So, while the law would provide a ceiling on the acts that a dental therapist could perform, a collaborative agreement could further restrict those acts. For example, a collaborative agreement would provide the amount of supervision required by the dentist and the types of patients a dental therapist could serve.

In addition, for the first five years after the profession is established, dental therapists would be limited to practicing in areas that are limited in dental services.

If you would like to review it, I have prepared a chart that compares the license/registration requirements and scopes of practice of all four dental professions; a link to this chart can be found [here](#).

Just let me know if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,  
Betsy

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