



Department of Dental Hygiene
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February 2, 2016

Dear Members of the House Government Operations Committee,

I am requesting a change to the Vermont Statutes relating to the composition of the Vermont Board of Dental Examiners in the Office of Professional Regulation Omnibus Bill. Currently the statute reads:

[Title 26 : Professions And Occupations](#)

[Chapter 012 : Dentists, Dental Hygienists, And Dental Assistants](#)

Subchapter 002 : Board Of Dental Examiners

§ 581. Creation; qualifications

(a) The state board of dental examiners is created and shall consist of six licensed dentists in good standing who have practiced in this state for a period of five years or more and are in active practice; two licensed dental hygienists who have practiced in this state for a period of at least three years immediately preceding the appointment and are in active practice; one registered dental assistant who has practiced in this state for a period of at least three years immediately preceding the appointment and is in active practice; and two members of the public who are not associated with the practice of dentistry.

(b) Board members shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004.

(c) No member of the board may be an officer or serve on a committee of his or her respective state or local professional dental, dental hygiene, or dental assisting organization, **nor shall any member of the board be on the faculty of a school of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting.** (Added 2011, No. 116 (Adj. Sess.), § 13.)

The change I am requesting is to subsection (c) that restricts a member of a dental hygiene faculty from serving on the Board. Vermont is only one of two states in the northeast region that includes this restriction and it is not necessary. By including this wording it restricts the number of dentists that might like to work in our dental hygiene clinic as supervising dentists. In addition, it is my belief that the faculty are the most current on the practice of dental hygiene and their wealth of knowledge would be an incredible asset to the Board of Dental Examiners.

At the recent meeting of the Board of Dental Examiners the Board voted 6-3 in favor of removing the restriction.

Thank you for considering my request and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding my amendment.

Sincerely,

Ellen B. Grimes, RDH, MA, MPA, Ed.D

Ellen B. Grimes, RDH, MA, MPA, Ed.D
Dental Hygiene Program Director