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Legislative Document

No. 187

S.P. 62

In Senate, January 27, 2015

Resolve, To Expand Dental Care in the State by Extending the Pilot Program for Dental Hygienists

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Heath & Buil

Presented by Senator VOLK of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative BECK of Waterville and
Senators: CUSHING of Penobscot, GERZOFSKY of Cumberland, HAMPER of Oxford,
MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives: FECTEAU of Biddeford, JORGENSEN of
Portland.

1 2	Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
3 4 5	Whereas, pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 67 and chapter 153, independent practice dental hygienists in certain underserved areas of the State are allowed to expose and process radiographs; and
6	Whereas, this authorization is set to expire on March 15, 2015; and
7 8 9	Whereas, this legislation, which continues the authorization and expands its application to the entire State, needs to take effect prior to March 15, 2015 to avoid an interruption in the services; and
10 11 12 13	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it
14 15 16	Sec. 1. Resolve 2011, c. 67, §1, first ¶, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 2011, c. 67, §1, first ¶, as amended by Resolve 2011, c. 153, §1, is further amended to read:
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Sec. 1. Pilot project for underserved and other areas of the State. Resolved: That the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Board of Dental Examiners shall establish a pilot project to allow a licensed independent practice dental hygienist to expose and process radiographs under protocols developed by the Board of Dental Examiners. <u>Until March 15, 2015, this pilot project applies only</u> within areas of the State that have been designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as dental health professional shortage areas. <u>Beginning March 15, 2015, the pilot project applies statewide.</u>
25	; and be it further
26 27 28	Sec. 2. Resolve 2011, c. 67, §1, last ¶, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 2011, c. 67, §1, last ¶, as amended by Resolve 2011, c. 153, §3, is further amended to read:
29	The pilot project terminates March 15, 2015 2017; and be it further
30 31	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.
32	SUMMARY
33 34 35 36	Under a pilot project that is scheduled to expire on March 15, 2015, independent practice dental hygienists are allowed to expose and process radiographs in areas of the State that have been designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as dental health professional shortage areas.

This resolve continues the authority of these independent practice dental hygienists to expose and process radiographs for 2 more years, except that the authorization applies in the entire State for those additional 2 years.