

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—  
H.P. 1360 - L.D. 2030

**An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this legislation allows an independent practice dental hygienist to administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia as long as the independent practice dental hygienist has the appropriate licensure authority; and

**Whereas,** this legislation will provide more opportunities for persons in need of dental cleanings and other preventive dental services to access these services through an independent practice dental hygienist; and

**Whereas,** immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to expand access to oral health care in this State; and

**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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §18375, sub-§1, ¶Q,** as amended by PL 2023, c. 354, §8, is further amended to read:

Q. Prescribe, dispense or administer fluoride, silver diamine fluoride, antimicrobial solutions for mouth rinsing, topical anesthetics, other nonsystemic antimicrobial agents, desensitizing agents and resorbable antimicrobial agents; ~~and~~

**Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §18375, sub-§1, ¶R,** as enacted by PL 2023, c. 354, §8, is amended to read:

R. Perform dental hygiene assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis and dental hygiene treatment planning and implementation in the identification, prevention and management of oral disease; and

**Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §18375, sub-§1, ¶S** is enacted to read:

S. Administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia, as long as the independent practice dental hygienist has authority to administer the relevant medication pursuant to section 18345, subsection 2, paragraph D or E, respectively.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.