



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1085

H.P. 763

House of Representatives, March 21, 2017

**An Act To Amend the Requirements for Licensure as an
Independent Practice Dental Hygienist**

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

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RYKERSON of Kittery.
Cosponsored by Representatives: MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SIROCKI of Scarborough.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §18345, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 429, §21, is
3 amended to read:

4 A. For independent practice dental hygienist authority:

5 (1) If the applicant has a bachelor's degree or higher in dental hygiene from a
6 dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association
7 Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor organization, verification of
8 2,000 work hours of clinical practice ~~during the 4 years preceding the~~
9 ~~application; or~~

10 (2) If the applicant has an associate degree in dental hygiene from a dental
11 hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on
12 Dental Accreditation or its successor organization, verification of 5,000 work
13 hours of clinical practice ~~during the 6 years preceding the application; or~~

14 (3) Verification of at least 5 years of clinical practice, including part-time
15 practice or employment, as a licensed dental hygienist in a private dental practice
16 or nonprofit setting while under the supervision of a dentist.

17 For purposes of meeting the clinical practice requirements of this paragraph, the
18 applicant's hours or years in a private dental practice or nonprofit setting under the
19 supervision of a dentist may be included as well as the applicant's hours or years as a
20 public health dental hygienist or, prior to ~~the effective date of this Act~~ July 29, 2016,
21 as a dental hygienist with public health supervision status;

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill removes the time restriction within which an applicant for independent
24 practice dental hygienist authority must complete a specified number of hours of clinical
25 practice. The bill also provides an applicant for independent practice dental hygienist
26 authority an alternative method of meeting the specific hours by allowing the applicant to
27 provide proof of at least 5 years of clinical practice, which may include part-time work,
28 as a licensed dental hygienist.