



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
& FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION



Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

March 13, 2025

Senator Donna Bailey, Senate Chair
Representative Lori Gramlich, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: *LD 806, An Act to Amend the Scope of Practice for Expanded Function Dental Assistants*

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation's Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation ("OPOR"), an umbrella agency that supports the Maine Board of Dental Practice ("Board").

The Board regulates various dental professionals including dental radiographers, expanded function dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental therapists, denturists, dentists and the use of sedation, local anesthesia and nitrous oxide analgesia. Under the current Dental Practice Act, a licensed expanded function dental assistant is not authorized to take dental radiographs without first obtaining a second license from the Board as a dental radiographer.

The qualifications to be licensed as an expanded function dental assistant are such that the individual must either be licensed as a dental hygienist or must hold a current certificate as a certified dental assistant® which is a certificate issued by the Dental Assisting National Board ("DANB"). DANB's national certification requirements include passage of the dental radiologic technique and safety examination, which is also the examination required to be licensed by the Board as a dental radiographer. Similarly, the Board's regulations governing the scope of practice of a dental hygienist includes the taking of dental radiographs.

Simply put, requiring a licensed expanded function dental assistant to obtain a second license from the Board to provide oral health care services such as the taking of dental radiographs is unnecessary and duplicative. It is also contrary to OPOR's efforts to reduce unnecessary licensure barriers by allowing qualified individuals to fully utilize their scope of practice. This effort not only leads to increased access to oral health care but also addresses the workforce challenges facing dental practices across the state.

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OPOR supports the intent of the bill and recommends consideration of a technical amendment to include licensure as an expanded function dental assistant to the exceptions listed in the governing regulations of the Maine Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners (See 32 M.R.S. § 9854 sub-§3.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information, and I would be happy to answer any questions at the work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Penny Vaillancourt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Penny Vaillancourt
Deputy Commissioner