

**LD 1457, An Act To Improve Access to Dental Hygiene by Authorizing Dental Hygienists To Perform Dental Hygiene Diagnosis**

**SUMMARY:**

This bill, [as amended by the sponsor](#), adds dental hygiene diagnosis to the procedures a dental hygienist, an independent practice dental hygienist and a public health dental hygienist may perform under the general supervision of a dentist. It provides authority for a dental hygienist to provide local anesthesia under the general supervision of a dentist. It retains in current law the authority for a dental hygienist to administer nitrous oxide analgesia under the direct supervision of a dentist.

**TESTIMONY:** Written testimony can be found at this [link](#)

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## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. As drafted, bill recognizes that dental hygienists perform dental hygiene diagnosis as part of their scope of practice. Two states, Colorado and Oregon, include a similar definition in their licensing statutes.
2. Consider whether change to level of supervision for administration of local anesthesia should be subject of further stakeholder discussion? The Board of Dental Practice has brought forward recommendations for changes to licensing statutes included in LD 76 after full consideration by stakeholder group before final recommendations made by the board.
3. Is the change to the level of supervision an appropriate change to scope of practice? Under current law, dental hygienists may administer local anesthesia under direct supervision. Board's testimony indicated that stakeholder process will consider all information and report back information to assist Legislature in determining whether policy change should move forward.
4. Based on [information from the American Dental Hygienists Association](#), there are 9 states that permit local anesthesia under general or indirect supervision: AK, AZ, CO, ID, MN, MT, OR, WA, WI.

## **FISCAL INFORMATION:**

Additional costs to the Board of Dental Practice, affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, associated with the rulemaking process can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.