

## **LD 1629, An Act Regarding the Qualifications for Licensure as a Physician or Surgeon**

### **SUMMARY:**

This bill provides that an applicant for licensure as a physician or surgeon in the State satisfies the postgraduate training requirements if the applicant graduates from an oral and maxillofacial surgery program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, graduates from a medical school associated with a training program that is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Accreditation and completes 24 months of postgraduate training at a program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education.

**CURRENT LAW:** In order to qualify for licensure as a physician, an applicant must have completed at least 36 months in a graduate educational program. See [32 MRSA Section 3271](#)

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

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### **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. Proponents of the bill seek clarification to authorize medical licensure for applicants who are qualified dual-degreed oral and maxillofacial surgeons. In this instance, the Board of Licensure in Medicine has denied licensure to an applicant who received a total of 72- months of postgraduate training in oral and maxillofacial surgery, at least 24-months of which are ACGME accredited. The University of Pittsburgh issued his medical degree after 48-months of training, and he went on to complete a further 24-months of integrated dental/medical training after receipt of this degree. The board's position is that because the medical degree was issued in year four of his program, the board only recognizes that the applicant has -completed 24-months of postgraduate training, which does not meet the 36-month requirement in current law.
2. The Board of Medicine opposed the bill and raised concerns about shortening the time required for postgraduate training from 36 months to 24 months to allow dentists to be licensed as physicians and also raised concerns about disparate treatment between applicants not trained as dentists and those also trained as dentists.
3. In response to committee's request, the Board of Medicine suggested an [amendment to LD 1629](#) for the committee's consideration that would replace the bill with language providing discretion to the board to consider training that occurs following graduation from a dental school accredited by the A.D.A. Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or its successor organization but before graduation from a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

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**FISCAL INFORMATION:**

No fiscal impact