

CHAPTER 2019-111

House Bill No. 549

An act relating to continuing education for dentists; amending s. 466.0135, F.S.; requiring a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education on the prescribing of controlled substances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 466.0135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

466.0135 Continuing education; dentists.—

(1) In addition to the other requirements for renewal set out in this chapter, each licensed dentist shall be required to complete biennially not less than 30 hours of continuing professional education in dental subjects, with a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances. Programs of continuing education shall be programs of learning that contribute directly to the dental education of the dentist and may include, but shall not be limited to, attendance at lectures, study clubs, college postgraduate courses, or scientific sessions of conventions; and research, graduate study, teaching, or service as a clinician. Programs of continuing education shall be acceptable when adhering to the following general guidelines:

(a) The aim of continuing education for dentists is to improve all phases of dental health care delivery to the public.

(b) Continuing education courses shall address one or more of the following areas of professional development, including, but not limited to:

1. Basic medical and scientific subjects, including, but not limited to, biology, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, and pharmacology;

2. Clinical and technological subjects, including, but not limited to, clinical techniques and procedures, materials, and equipment; and

3. Subjects pertinent to oral health and safety.

(c) The board may also authorize up to three hours of credit biennially for a practice management course that includes principles of ethical practice management, provides substance abuse, effective communication with patients, time management, and burnout prevention instruction.

(d) Continuing education credits shall be earned at the rate of one-half credit hour per 25-30 contact minutes of instruction and one credit hour per 50-60 contact minutes of instruction.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 18, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 18, 2019.