

CHAPTER 2022-32

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 926

An act relating to licensure examinations for dental practitioners; amending s. 466.006, F.S.; revising licensure examination requirements for dentists to require applicants to demonstrate certain clinical skills on a manikin rather than a live patient; amending s. 466.0065, F.S.; revising requirements for regional licensure examinations offered by dental schools to dental students; amending s. 466.007, F.S.; revising licensure examination requirements for dental hygienists to require applicants to demonstrate certain clinical skills on a manikin rather than a live patient; repealing s. 466.0075, F.S.; deleting a requirement that applicants for dental practitioner licensure examinations maintain medical malpractice insurance to cover any incident of harm to a patient during the clinical examination; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 466.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

466.006 Examination of dentists.—

(5)(a) The practical examination required under subsection (4) ~~is~~ shall be the American Dental Licensing Examination developed by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., or its successor entity, if any, provided the board finds that the successor entity's clinical examination complies with the provisions of this section, and must ~~shall~~ include, at a minimum:

1. A comprehensive diagnostic skills examination covering the full scope of dentistry and an examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning in dentistry for dental candidates;

2. Two restorations on a manikin that has typodont teeth with simulated caries as approved by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments ~~live patient or patients~~. The board by rule shall determine the class of such restorations;

3. A demonstration of periodontal skills on a manikin that has typodont teeth with simulated calculus as approved by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments ~~live patient~~;

4. A demonstration of prosthetics and restorative skills in complete and partial dentures and crowns and bridges and the utilization of practical methods of evaluation, specifically including the evaluation by the candidate of completed laboratory products such as, but not limited to, crowns and inlays filled to prepared model teeth;

5. A demonstration of restorative skills on a manikin mannequin which requires the candidate to complete procedures performed in preparation for a cast restoration;

6. A demonstration of endodontic skills; and

7. A diagnostic skills examination demonstrating ability to diagnose conditions within the human oral cavity and its adjacent tissues and structures from photographs, slides, radiographs, or models pursuant to rules of the board. If an applicant fails to pass the diagnostic skills examination in three attempts, the applicant is shall not be eligible for reexamination unless she or he completes additional educational requirements established by the board.

The department shall require a mandatory standardization exercise for all examiners prior to each practical or clinical examination and shall retain for employment only those dentists who have substantially adhered to the standard of grading established at such exercise.

Section 2. Paragraphs (c), (e), and (j) of subsection (2) of section 466.0065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

466.0065 Regional licensure examinations.—

(2) Each school of dentistry in this state which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association or its successor agency may, upon written approval by the Board of Dentistry, offer regional licensure examinations only to dental students in the final year of a program at an approved dental school, if the board has approved the hosting school's written plan to comply with the following conditions:

~~(e) The student must possess medical malpractice insurance in amounts not less than the amounts required to take the Florida licensure examinations.~~

~~(e) Adequate arrangements, as defined by the regional examination body and as otherwise required by law, must be made, when necessary, for patients who require followup care as a result of procedures performed during the clinical portion of the regional examination. The regional examination body must inform patients in writing of their right to followup care in advance of any procedures performed by a student.~~

~~(j) The student's academic record must not include any evidence suggesting that the student poses an unreasonable risk to any live patients who are required for the clinical portion of the regional examination. In order to protect the health and safety of the public, the dental school may request additional information and documents pertaining to the candidate's mental and physical health in order to fully assess the candidate's fitness to engage in exercises involving a live patient.~~

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 466.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

466.007 Examination of dental hygienists.—

(4) Effective July 1, 2012, to be licensed as a dental hygienist in this state, an applicant must successfully complete the following:

(b) A practical or clinical examination approved by the board. The examination shall be the Dental Hygiene Examination produced by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., (ADEX) or its successor entity, if any, if the board finds that the successor entity’s clinical examination meets or exceeds the provisions of this section. The board shall approve the ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination if the board has attained and continues to maintain representation on the ADEX House of Representatives, the ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination Development Committee, and such other ADEX Dental Hygiene committees as the board deems appropriate through rulemaking to ensure that the standards established in this section are maintained organizationally. The ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination or the examination produced by its successor entity is a comprehensive examination in which an applicant must demonstrate skills within the dental hygiene scope of practice on a manikin that has typodont teeth with simulated dentition and calculus as approved by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments ~~live patient~~ and any other components that the board deems necessary for the applicant to successfully demonstrate competency for the purpose of licensure.

Section 4. Section 466.0075, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2022.