

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2595

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-9-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PRESCRIBE THE SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN A
3 PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-9-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 73-9-5. (1) For the purpose of this chapter, a dental
8 hygienist shall be an individual who has completed an accredited
9 dental hygiene education program, passed the national dental
10 hygiene board and is licensed by the State Board of Dental
11 Examiners to provide, as an auxiliary to the dentist, preventive
12 care services including, but not limited to, scaling and
13 polishing. In fulfilling these services, dental hygienists
14 provide treatment that helps to prevent oral disease such as
15 dental caries and periodontal disease and for educating patients
16 in prevention of these and other dental problems.

17 (2) The work of dental hygienists and dental assistants
18 while working in the office of a regularly licensed and registered
19 dentist shall at all times be under the direct supervision of the
20 dentist. Dental hygienists in the employ of the State Board of
21 Health or public school boards shall be under public health
22 supervision subject to the provisions of subsection (4) of this
23 section. Dental hygienists recognized by the Board of Dental
24 Examiners when making public demonstrations of dental hygiene for
25 educational purposes shall be under the general supervision and
26 direction of regularly licensed and registered dentists.

27 (3) The Board of Dental Examiners may prohibit any dental
28 hygienist or other auxiliary personnel from rendering service that
29 it feels is not in the best interest of the public welfare.

30 (4) (a) For the purpose of this subsection (4), public
31 health supervision is a type of supervision in which a Mississippi
32 licensed dentist is not required to be physically present when a
33 licensed dental hygienist provides dental hygiene services, when
34 such services are provided as part of an organized community
35 program in various public health settings, defined in paragraph
36 (c), and with oversight of such program(s) by a Mississippi
37 licensed dentist in the employ of the public or nonprofit
38 governing authority.

39 (b) The recognized public or nonprofit governing
40 authority must obtain a public health supervision agreement with
41 the organized community program, be available to provide an
42 appropriate level of contact, communication, collaboration and
43 consultation with the dental hygienist; have specified standing
44 orders and policy guidelines for procedures which are to be
45 performed; and assure that those who self-report as not having a
46 dental provider are given information on how to obtain a
47 comprehensive dental examination.

48 (c) For the purposes of this subsection (4), the
49 following public settings shall require a public health
50 supervision agreement: schools; Head Start programs; federally
51 qualified health centers; mobile and portable public health dental
52 programs; nonprofit dental service corporations; nursing homes;
53 long-term care facilities; and federal, state or local public
54 health clinics.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2007.