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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DENTISTS AND DENTAL  
HYGIENISTS

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-31.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-31.1 entitled "Dentists  
2 and Dental Hygienists" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-31.1-2. Board of examiners in dentistry -- Members -- Compensation -- Funds. --**

4 (a) There is created within the department of health the Rhode Island board of examiners in  
5 dentistry, which is composed of the following members:

6 (1) Six (6) licensed dentists;

7 (2) Four (4) public members not associated with the dental field;

8 (3) Two (2) licensed dental hygienists; and

9 (4) The chief of the office of dental public health, who serves as a member of the board  
10 [and one certified dental assistant.](#)

11 (b) The governor shall appoint the members of the board, except that prior to appointing  
12 the six (6) dentist members the governor may submit a list of all candidates to the appropriate  
13 dental societies for comments as to their qualifications. No member shall be appointed for more  
14 than two (2) consecutive full terms. A member appointed for less than a full term (originally or to  
15 fill a vacancy) may serve two (2) full terms in addition to that part of a full term, and a former  
16 member is again eligible for appointment after a lapse of one or more years. All subsequent  
17 appointments to the board shall be for a term of three (3) years. Any member of the board may be  
18 removed by the governor for neglect of duty, misconduct, malfeasance, or misfeasance in office

1 after being given a written statement of the charges against him or her and sufficient opportunity  
2 to be heard on the charges. The board shall elect from its members a chairperson who shall be a  
3 dentist duly licensed under the laws of the state of Rhode Island, and a vice-chairperson who shall  
4 in the absence of the chairperson exercise all powers of the chairperson, and secretary, who serve  
5 for one year or until their successors are appointed and qualified. The board shall meet at least  
6 once a month or more often upon the call of the chairperson, director of health or dental  
7 administrator, at any times and places that the chairperson designates.

8 (c) Members of the board shall not be paid for the discharge of official duties.

9 (d) The administration of the board shall be funded from annual fees. The director shall  
10 in consultation with the board determine the amount of the annual fee to be charged to each  
11 licensed dentist and dental hygienist, the payment of which is a condition to practicing dentistry  
12 or dental hygiene in the state. The director or the dental administrator has the authority to suspend  
13 or revoke the license of any dentist or dental hygienist who does not pay the annual fee. Monies  
14 shall be received by the department and deposited in the general fund as general revenues.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DENTISTS AND DENTAL  
HYGIENISTS

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- 1           This act would add one certified dental assistant to the Rhode Island Board of Examiners
- 2   in Dentistry.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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