



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 60-20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Department of Health Professions November 3, 2004

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

Pursuant to Chapter 754 of the 2004 Acts of Assembly, the Board of Dentistry (board) proposes to adopt regulations for the temporary licensure of persons enrolled in advanced dental education programs.

Estimated Economic Impact

Currently, residents, interns and post-doctoral fellows provide dental services for the public in the dental school at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), the only dental school in Virginia, and in outpatient dental clinics that are a recognized part of VCU's advanced dental education programs.¹ While residents, interns, and post-doctoral fellows have been working in those clinics, they have been unable to prescribe controlled substances without a license issued

¹ The Department of Health Professions confirmed that VCU has the only dental school in Virginia, and that the only advanced dental education programs in the Commonwealth are associated with VCU.

by the state. Such a license is necessary to obtain a controlled substance registration from the Drug Enforcement Administration, so their practice has been hampered.

The board proposes to establish temporary licensure of persons enrolled in advanced dental education programs. In order to obtain temporary licensure, applicants must: 1) successfully complete a D.D.S. or D.M.D. dental degree program required for admission to the board-approved licensure examinations,² and 2) submit a recommendation from the dean of the dental school or the director of the accredited graduate program specifying the applicant's acceptance as an intern, resident or post-doctoral certificate or degree candidate in an advanced dental education program.³ Unlike the standard license, passing the board-approved licensure examinations is not required for the temporary license. The temporary license holder is responsible and accountable at all times to a licensed dentist, who is a member of the staff where the internship, residency, or post-doctoral candidacy is served. The temporary license only allows for dental practice within facilities affiliated with their advanced dental education program. A standard license is required for practice elsewhere.

The temporary license will enable dental residents (interns and post-docs) to practice in an analogous way to medical residents (interns and post-docs) at Virginia medical schools and associated clinics. With oversight by members of the dental school staff and limitations on employment outside of clinics affiliated with the dental program, the practice of dentists with a temporary resident license is more closely monitored than that of a dentist holding a full license for practice.

The temporary license will be beneficial in that it will: 1) enable dentists in advanced dental education programs to gain more experience while supervised by an experienced dentist who is a member of the staff where the internship, residency, or post-doctoral candidacy is served, and 2) enable additional dental services to be offered to the public. There is the possibility that the less experienced dentist might prescribe a drug that his experienced supervisor might not. It seems unlikely, though, that the supervised dental school graduate would prescribe something highly inappropriate. Also, the supervisor may very well note the prescription and change it before it is filled. No evidence is available to estimate the likelihood

² The applicant must also submit a letter of confirmation from the registrar of the school or college conferring the professional degree, or official transcripts confirming the professional degree and the date the degree was received.

³ The beginning and ending dates of the internship, residency, or post-doctoral program must be specified.

and cost of the less-experienced dentist prescribing a drug that is not the most appropriate. If the combined likelihood and cost are small, than the substantial benefits of the temporary license described above will outweigh the costs.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed amendments affect the ###⁴ individuals enrolled in advanced dental education programs in Virginia, as well as their faculty supervisors and their patients.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulations affect all Virginia localities, but may particularly affect patients in the Richmond area since Virginia's only dental school is located in Richmond.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments will not significantly affect employment levels.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed amendments will increase and speed the dental services offered at clinics affiliated with the VCU School of Dentistry.

⁴ Figure will be added when the VCU School of Dentistry provides the requested data. The data was requested on November 1, 2004.