



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget **Economic Impact Analysis**

18 VAC 60-25 Regulations Governing the Practice of Dental Hygiene
18 VAC 60-30 Regulations Governing the Practice of Dental Assistants
Department of Health Professions
Town Hall Action/Stage: 6882 / 10961
April 16, 2026

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia (Code) and Executive Order 19. The analysis presented below represents DPB’s best estimate of the potential economic impacts as of the date of this analysis.¹

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Dentistry (Board) proposes amendments to eliminate two outdated references and update a third outdated reference.

Background

The current 18VAC60-30-10 *Definitions* section of *Regulations Governing the Practice of Dental Assistants* defines “Dental assistant II” as “a person under the direction and direct supervision of a dentist who is registered by the board to perform reversible, intraoral procedures as specified in 18VAC60-30-60 and 18VAC60-30-70.” 18VAC60-30-60 and 18VAC60-30-70 were repealed in 2024.² Thus, the Board proposes to truncate the definition to “a person under the direction and direct supervision of a dentist who is registered by the board to perform reversible, intraoral procedures.”

¹ Code § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses determine the public benefits and costs of the proposed amendments. Further the analysis should include but not be limited to: (1) the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the proposed regulatory action would apply, (2) the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, (3) the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, (4) the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and (5) the impact on the use and value of private property.

² See Action 6149 <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewAction.cfm?actionid=6149>.

Subsection A of the current 18VAC60-30-140 (Registration by endorsement as a dental assistant II) of *Regulations Governing the Practice of Dental Assistants* in part states that an applicant for registration by endorsement as a dental assistant II shall provide evidence of the following:

3. A credential, registration, or certificate from another state with qualifications substantially equivalent in hours of instruction and course content to those set forth in 18VAC60-30-120 or, if the qualifications were not substantially equivalent, documented experience in the restorative and prosthetic expanded duties set forth in 18VAC60-30-60 for at least 24 of the past 48 months preceding application for registration in Virginia.

As stated above, 18VAC60-30-60 was repealed in 2024. Thus, the pathway mentioned after the “or” in A.3 above ceased to be available when 18VAC60-30-60 was repealed. According to the Department of Health Professions, this pathway has never been used. Consequently, the Board proposes to eliminate the text in A.3 from “or” to the end.

Subsection A of the current 8 VAC 60-25-110 (Patient records; confidentiality section of *Regulations Governing the Practice of Dental Hygiene*) in part states that a dental hygienist shall be responsible for accurate and complete information in patient records for those services provided by a hygienist or a dental assistant under direction to include the following:

6. A notation or documentation of an order required for treatment of a patient by a dental hygienist practicing under general supervision as required in 18VAC60-25-60 C;

The Board proposes to replace “18VAC60-25-60 C” with the current correct reference “18VAC60-21-120.”

Estimated Benefits and Costs

The proposed elimination and replacement of outdated references would have no impact on requirements but could be beneficial in that it would reduce the likelihood that readers of the regulations would be misled by outdated information.

Businesses and Other Entities Affected

The proposed amendments primarily affect readers of the regulation. The regulations pertain to the 6,105 licensed dental hygienists and 62 registered dental assistants II in the Commonwealth.³

The Code requires DPB to assess whether an adverse impact may result from the proposed regulation.⁴ An adverse impact is indicated if there is any increase in net cost or reduction in net benefit for any entity, even if the benefits exceed the costs for all entities combined.⁵ The proposed amendments neither increase net costs nor reduce net benefits for any entity. Thus, no adverse impact is indicated.

Small Businesses⁶ Affected:⁷

The proposed amendments do not adversely affect small businesses.

Localities⁸ Affected⁹

The proposed amendments neither disproportionately affect any particular localities nor affect costs for local governments.

³ Data source: <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/about/stats/2026Q3/04CurrentLicenseCountQ3FY2026.pdf>.

⁴ Pursuant to Code § 2.2-4007.04(D): In the event this economic impact analysis reveals that the proposed regulation would have an adverse economic impact on businesses or would impose a significant adverse economic impact on a locality, business, or entity particularly affected, the Department of Planning and Budget shall advise the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

⁵ Statute does not define “adverse impact,” state whether only Virginia entities should be considered, nor indicate whether an adverse impact results from regulatory requirements mandated by legislation. As a result, DPB has adopted a definition of adverse impact that assesses changes in net costs and benefits for each affected Virginia entity that directly results from discretionary changes to the regulation.

⁶ Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, small business is defined as “a business entity, including its affiliates, that (i) is independently owned and operated and (ii) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.”

⁷ If the proposed regulatory action may have an adverse effect on small businesses, Code § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include: (1) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation, (2) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents, (3) a statement of the probable effect of the proposed regulation on affected small businesses, and (4) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation. Additionally, pursuant to Code § 2.2-4007.1, if there is a finding that a proposed regulation may have an adverse impact on small business, the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules shall be notified.

⁸ “Locality” can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulatory change are most likely to occur.

⁹ § 2.2-4007.04 defines “particularly affected” as bearing disproportionate material impact.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments do not affect employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed amendments neither affect either the use and value of private property nor affect real estate development costs.