

Agency Response to Economic Impact Analysis

Board of Dentistry Regulations on Change in Renewal Schedule

The Board of Dentistry does not concur with some of the assertions of the economic impact analysis (EIA) on the proposed change in renewal schedule.

The EIA asserts that the “one-time relief, however, would be uneven among the licensees depending on their birth month.” The agency does not agree. A licensee pays his/her renewal fee prospectively. In the proposed action, the fee paid in March of 2020 will be based on the number of months a licensee will have before his/her next renewal date in 2021. Every licensee will pay exactly the same fee (\$15 per month for a dentist). The amount is prorated for the number of months of licensure (10 months X \$15 = \$150; 21 months X \$15 = \$315), so no licensee is disadvantaged. A person with a January birth month will only get 10 months of licensure before he/she has to renew in January of 2021. However, a person with a December birth month will get 21 months of licensure before he/she has to renew in 2021; the prorated fee treats every licensee the same.

The agency considered a variety of methods for converting to birth month renewal; Board members concluded that this proration based on the number of months renewal was the most equitable. The agency does not concur that another prorated fee schedule would more evenly distribute the excess revenue because some licensees would be disadvantaged by fewer months of licensure.

While the agency understands that the change will necessitate some adjustment for administrative in some dental practices, it notes that the two boards (Medicine and Nursing) with largest number of licensees have had renewal by birth month for many years. Medical practices that employ large numbers of doctors and nurses have not had difficulty with birth month renewals. Additionally, the agency would note the relatively small number of comments in opposition to the change. Out of 7,463 dentists and 6,010 dental hygienists licensed in Virginia, only 10 dentists and 5 hygienists commented in opposition. The decision to amend regulations was made by the Board, which is comprised of 7 dentists and 2 hygienists, all of whom voted in favor of the change to birth month.

The EIA commented that a person with a birth date during holidays or tax filing season would have less time to renew. Renewal notices are sent 45-60 days in advance of the renewal month, so there is ample time for electronic renewal of one's license.

Finally, the EIA noted that “the Board could eliminate this unintended consequence by allowing licenses to request a renewal month that better accommodates their busy schedules.” The agency explained to the Department of Planning and Budget that such a scheme would be chaotic, not only for Board staff, but for the Finance and IT divisions of the Department, and ultimately for licensees themselves. To allow 300,000+ licensees of the Department to choose their own renewal date is not a viable option. To our knowledge, there is no licensing agency in Virginia or elsewhere that has adopted such a renewal schedule, and DPB provided no feasibility study or plan for implementation and impact.