



Legislation Summary:

An Act authorizing dental therapists to expand access to oral health

Initial bill number: [S1169/H2474](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette L. Chandler, Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Rep. Kate Hogan

This bill would establish an advanced dental hygiene practitioner level of practice. The bill defines an advanced dental hygiene practitioner as a dental hygienist who is a graduate of a registered dental practitioner education program of not more than 18 months provided by an accredited post-secondary institution, who has been certified by the Board, and who provides oral health care services, including preventive, oral evaluation and assessment, educational, palliative, therapeutic, and restorative services. To qualify, she or he must have practiced under direct supervision of a supervising dentist for at least 500 hours and have obtained a policy of professional liability insurance.

Before performing a procedure or providing a service, an advanced dental hygiene practitioner must enter into a written collaborative agreement with a local or state government agency or institution or with a licensed dentist who states that he or she shall be able to provide the appropriate level of communication and consultation with the advanced dental hygiene practitioner to ensure patient health and safety.

The bill specifies the services an advanced dental hygiene practitioner may perform.

League Position: An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all. *Where We Stand*, p. 47