

By: Brown

H.B. No. 1581

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of dental assistants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 265.002, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The supervision, direction, and responsibility requirements of this section may not be construed to prohibit a registered dental assistant from engaging in the practice of a dental assistant as an independent contractor.

SECTION 2. Section 265.003(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A dental assistant who is not professionally licensed may ~~[be employed by and]~~ work in the office of a licensed and practicing dentist and perform one or more delegated dental acts under:

(1) the direct supervision, direction, and responsibility of the dentist, including:

(A) the application of a pit and fissure sealant;

(B) coronal polishing, if the dental assistant holds a certificate under Section 265.006; and

(C) the application of fluoride varnish; or

(2) the general supervision, direction, and responsibility of the dentist, limited to:

(A) the making of dental x-rays in compliance

1 with Section 265.005; and

2 (B) the provision of interim treatment of a minor  
3 emergency dental condition to an existing patient of the treating  
4 dentist.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.