

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 357

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of a training manual and code of conduct for members of the State Board of Dental Examiners.

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

SECTION 1. Section 252.010, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(b-1) The board shall adopt a training manual for board members. The executive director shall provide the manual to each board member each year and to each person appointed to the board during the training program under Subsection (a). The manual must include, at a minimum:

(1) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking authority of the board;

(2) the distinction between the board's rulemaking authority and the authority of the legislature; and

(3) board rules and other applicable state laws.

(b-2) A member of the board shall submit to the executive director annually a statement affirming receipt of the member training manual.

SECTION 2. Chapter 252, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 252.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 252.012. CODE OF CONDUCT. (a) The board by rule shall adopt a code of conduct applicable to each member of the board.

(b) At a minimum, the code of conduct must specify:

1           (1) the ethical considerations involved in  
2 communications between the board and persons required to register  
3 as lobbyists under Chapter 305, Government Code;

4           (2) the procedures by which a member of the board shall  
5 disclose a conflict of interest; and

6           (3) the importance of transparency and  
7 professionalism during regularly scheduled board meetings and in  
8 interactions with the public.

9           (c) The executive director shall provide the code of conduct  
10 to each board member each year. A member of the board shall submit  
11 to the executive director annually a statement affirming:

12                   (1) receipt of the code of conduct; and

13                   (2) adherence to the code of conduct in the  
14 performance of the member's duties.

15           SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2015, the State Board  
16 of Dental Examiners shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
17 Section 252.012, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

18           SECTION 4. Not later than June 1, 2016, the State Board of  
19 Dental Examiners shall adopt the training manual under Section  
20 [252.010\(b-1\)](#), Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

21           SECTION 5. Not later than December 1, 2016, the state  
22 auditor shall conduct a review to assess whether the State Board of  
23 Dental Examiners has exceeded its statutory authority and whether  
24 the board is in compliance with this Act. The state auditor shall  
25 make available on the auditor's Internet website a report on the  
26 auditor's findings from the review conducted under this section and  
27 report the results of the review to the governor, the lieutenant

1 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of  
2 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and the chair of the  
3 House Public Health Committee.

4 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
5 252.010, Occupations Code, regarding the training program of the  
6 State Board of Dental Examiners, does not affect the entitlement of  
7 a member serving on the board immediately before the date the board  
8 adopts the training manual under Section 252.010(b-1), Occupations  
9 Code, as added by this Act, to continue to serve as a member of the  
10 board for the remainder of the member's term.

11 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.