

By: Cortez

H.B. No. 4369

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education requirements for dentists regarding pain management with certain prescription medications.

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

SECTION 1. Section 257.005, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(b-1) The board shall require a licensed dentist whose practice includes direct patient care to complete, in accordance with this section, not less than two hours of board-approved continuing education [~~annually~~] regarding safe and effective pain management related to the prescription of opioids and other controlled substances, including education regarding:

(1) reasonable standards of care;

(2) the identification of drug-seeking behavior in patients; and

(3) effectively communicating with patients regarding the prescription of an opioid or other controlled substance.

(d) A dentist must complete the hours required by Subsection (b-1) in each of the first two renewal periods following the issuance of the dentist's initial license, with two of those hours to be completed not later than the first anniversary of the date of issuance.

(e) After the period described by Subsection (d), a dentist

1 must complete not less than two hours of continuing education
2 described by Subsection (b-1) every eight years.

3 (f) The hours required by this section may be completed in
4 any continuing education program approved by the board.

5 (g) The hours required by this section may not be used to
6 satisfy any education requirement established by board rule for
7 certified pain clinic personnel.

8 (h) Notwithstanding Subsections (d) and (e), a dentist who
9 on September 1, 2023, holds a license to practice under this
10 subtitle shall complete not less than two hours of continuing
11 education described by Subsection (b-1) in each of the two renewal
12 periods occurring after that date. This subsection expires January
13 1, 2028.

14 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2024, the State
15 Board of Dental Examiners shall adopt rules necessary to implement
16 Section 257.005, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

17 (b) Section 257.005, Occupations Code, as amended by this
18 Act, applies only to an application for renewal of a license
19 submitted on or after January 1, 2024. A renewal application
20 submitted before January 1, 2024, is governed by the law in effect
21 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
22 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.