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# HOUSE BILL No. 1254

Proposed Changes to January 13, 2026 printing by AM125403

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Required information. Amends the educational requirements for dental hygienists. Adds language requiring that the dental hygienist applicant's transcript submitted for review by the board must include an English translation of the transcript if the transcript is not in English. Requires the dental hygienist applicant to submit a satisfactory credential verification assessment by the board or certain other organizations.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 25-13-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.103-2011,
- 2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Any person desiring to practice dental
- 4 hygiene in Indiana must procure from the board a license to practice
- 5 dental hygiene. To procure a license, the applicant must submit to the
- 6 board proof of graduation from an institution for educating dental
- 7 hygienists that is approved by the board described in section 6(2) of
- 8 this chapter and other credentials required by this chapter, together
- 9 with an application on forms prescribed and furnished by the board.
- 10 Each applicant must pay to the board an application fee set by the
- 11 board under section 5 of this chapter at the time the application is made
- 12 and must pass an examination administered by an entity approved by
- 13 the board. The board may establish under section 5 of this chapter
- 14 additional requirements as a prerequisite to taking an examination for
- 15 any applicant who has failed the examination two (2) or more times.
- 16 Application fees are not refundable.
- 17 (b) An applicant described under subsection (a) shall, at the

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1 request of the board, make an appearance before the board.

2 SECTION 2. IC 25-13-1-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
3 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The board shall  
4 enforce this chapter.

5 (b) The board may adopt rules consistent with this chapter and  
6 with IC 25-14-1 necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter,  
7 the examination of dental hygienists, the educational requirements  
8 **described in section 6(2) of this chapter**, and for the conduct of the  
9 practice of dental hygiene.

10 (c) The board may utilize a dental hygienist education program's  
11 accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the  
12 American Dental Association as evidence that the program has met all  
13 or part of the standards for dental hygienist education programs  
14 established by the board.

15 SECTION 3. IC 25-13-1-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013,  
16 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
17 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. An applicant:

18 (1) must not have been convicted of a crime that has a direct  
19 bearing on the applicant's ability to practice competently;

20 (2) must be a graduate of a:

21 (A) school for dental hygienists that:

22 (A) (i) is accredited by the Commission on Dental  
23 Accreditation of the American Dental Association;

24 (B) (ii) is recognized by the board; and

25 (C) (iii) requires a formal course of training of not less  
26 than two (2) years of eight (8) months each; or

27 (B) dental college or university in a foreign country  
28 with a degree that is <substantially similar> [equal] to  
29 at least] a doctorate [in Indiana] of:

30 (i) dental surgery; or

31 (ii) dental medicine;

32 **determined and approved by the board;**

33 (3) must pass an examination administered by an entity approved  
34 by the board; and

35 (4) may not take the examination described in subdivision (3)  
36 more than three (3) times; and

37 (5) if the applicant is a graduate of a dental college or  
38 university] described in subdivision (2), must submit the  
39 ~~applicant's academic transcripts for review by the board.~~

40 >[following to the board:

41 (A) The applicant's academic transcripts for review by  
42 the board, including an English translation of the

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- transcript if the transcript is not in English.
- (B) A satisfactory credential verification assessment by:
  - (i) the board;
  - (ii) an organization that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services; or
  - (iii) any other organization approved by the board.

SECTION 4. IC 25-13-1-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.35-2020, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) A dental hygienist or dental assistant (as defined in IC 25-14-1-1.5(4)) may administer nitrous oxide under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist if the dental hygienist or dental assistant has:

- (1) **either:**
    - (A) been employed in a dental practice for at least one (1) year; or
    - (B) ~~has~~ graduated from a program:
      - (i) accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; **or**
      - (ii) **approved by the board;**
  - (2) satisfactorily completed a three (3) hour didactic nitrous oxide administration course **that:**
    - (A) ~~containing~~ **contains** curriculum on pharmacology, biochemistry, anatomy of nitrous oxide administration, emergency procedures, and the mechanics of operating a nitrous unit; **and**
    - (B) **is** accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association **or approved by the board;** and
  - (3) demonstrated clinical competency on at least five (5) patients under the direct supervision of a licensed Indiana dentist whose license is in good standing.
- (b) The licensed Indiana dentist supervising the clinical competency under subsection (a)(3) shall provide to the dental hygienist or dental assistant a signed affidavit certifying the competency.
- (c) Upon receipt of the affidavit provided to a dental hygienist or dental assistant under subsection (b), the provider of an educational program or curriculum described in subsection (a)(2) shall issue a certificate of completion to the dental hygienist or dental assistant. The certificate of completion must be publicly displayed in the dental office of the dental hygienist or dental assistant.
- (d) Before permitting a dental hygienist or dental assistant to

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1 administer nitrous oxide, the supervising dentist shall:

- 2 (1) verify that the dental hygienist or dental assistant has  
 3 completed the requirements of subsection (a);  
 4 (2) determine the maximum percent-dosage of nitrous oxide to  
 5 be administered to the patient; and  
 6 (3) ensure that any administration or monitoring of nitrous oxide  
 7 by dental hygienists or dental assistants is done in accordance  
 8 with relevant guidelines and standards developed by the  
 9 American Dental Association or the American Academy of  
 10 Pediatric Dentistry.

11 SECTION 5. IC 25-14-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013,  
 12 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A person desiring to begin the practice of  
 14 dentistry in Indiana shall procure from the board a license to practice  
 15 dentistry in Indiana. Except as provided in section 4.5 of this chapter,  
 16 to procure the license, the applicant must submit to the board proof of  
 17 graduation from a dental college recognized by the board. The board  
 18 may recognize dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental  
 19 Accreditation of the American Dental Association, if the board is  
 20 satisfied that the recognition is consistent with the board's  
 21 requirements. Every applicant must pass an examination administered  
 22 by an entity approved by the board and, **except as provided in**  
 23 **subsection (b)**, may not take the examination more than three (3)  
 24 times.

25 **(b) The board may establish additional requirements for an**  
 26 **applicant who has failed the examination at least three (3) times.**  
 27 **The applicant must complete ~~the~~ [any] additional requirements**  
 28 **before the applicant may take the examination again.**

29 ~~(b)~~ (c) A fee paid under this article may not be refunded.

30 SECTION 6. IC 25-34.5-2-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 31 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Each applicant  
 32 for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner must present satisfactory  
 33 evidence that the applicant:

- 34 (1) does not have a conviction for:  
 35 (A) an act that would constitute a ground for disciplinary  
 36 sanction under IC 25-1-9; or  
 37 (B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the practitioner's  
 38 ability to practice competently;  
 39 (2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by  
 40 the licensing or certification agency of another state or  
 41 jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to  
 42 practice as a respiratory care practitioner without endangering

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1 the public; and  
 2 (3) has **either**:  
 3 (A) **before January 1, 2028**, passed a respiratory care  
 4 practitioner licensing or certification examination approved  
 5 by the board; or  
 6 (B) **after December 31, 2027, successfully completed**  
 7 **both portions of the registered respiratory therapist**  
 8 **examination, administered by the National Board for**  
 9 **Respiratory Care or its successor organization.**  
 10 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner  
 11 must submit proof to the committee of the applicant's:  
 12 (1) graduation from a school or program of respiratory care that  
 13 meets standards set by the board;  
 14 (2) completion of a United States military training program in  
 15 respiratory care; or  
 16 (3) completion of sufficient postsecondary education to be  
 17 credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner  
 18 organization approved by the committee.  
 19 (c) At the time of making application, each applicant must pay a  
 20 fee determined by the board after consideration of a recommendation  
 21 of the committee.  
 22 SECTION 7. IC 25-34.5-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.177-2015,  
 23 SECTION 75, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 24 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in section 11 of this  
 25 chapter, the committee shall issue a license to each applicant who  
 26 ~~(1) successfully passes the examination provided in section 12~~  
 27 ~~of this chapter; and~~  
 28 ~~(2) meets the requirements of section 8 of this chapter.~~  
 29 (b) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a license issued under this section  
 30 expires on the last day of the regular renewal cycle established under  
 31 IC 25-1-5-4.  
 32 SECTION 8. IC 25-34.5-2-10.1, AS AMENDED BY  
 33 P.L.149-2022, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 34 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.1. (a) The  
 35 committee shall issue a temporary permit to a person to practice  
 36 respiratory care or to profess to be a respiratory care practitioner, not  
 37 more than thirty (30) days after the application is filed and completed,  
 38 if the person pays a fee and:  
 39 (1) has:  
 40 (A) a valid license or certificate to practice from another  
 41 state; and  
 42 (B) applied for a license from the committee;

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- 1 (2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify
- 2 respiratory care practitioners but is credentialed by a national
- 3 respiratory care practitioner association approved by the
- 4 committee, and the person has applied for a license from the
- 5 committee; or
- 6 (3) has:
  - 7 (A) been approved by the committee to take the next
  - 8 examination; and
  - 9 (B) graduated from a school or program approved by the
  - 10 committee. **is qualified to take the examination by being**
  - 11 **a graduate of a school or program of respiratory care**
  - 12 **that meets standards set by the board.**
- 13 (b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:
  - 14 (1) the date the person holding the permit is issued a license
  - 15 under this article; or
  - 16 (2) the date the committee disapproves the person's license
  - 17 application.
- 18 (c) The committee may renew a temporary permit if the person
- 19 holding the permit was scheduled to take the ~~next~~ examination and:
  - 20 (1) did not take the examination; and
  - 21 (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.
- 22 (d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the
- 23 person holding the permit receives the results from the ~~next~~
- 24 examination given after the permit was issued.
- 25 SECTION 9. IC 25-34.5-2-12 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 26 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 12. (a) Examinations of applicants for licensure under~~
- 27 ~~this article shall be held at least semiannually on dates set by the board.~~
- 28 ~~(b) An examination under this section must include a written~~
- 29 ~~examination that tests the following:~~
  - 30 ~~(1) The applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences~~
  - 31 ~~as they relate to the practice of respiratory care.~~
  - 32 ~~(2) Other subjects that the committee considers useful to test an~~
  - 33 ~~applicant's fitness to practice respiratory care.~~
- 34 ~~(c) An otherwise qualified applicant who fails an examination and~~
- 35 ~~is refused licensure may take another scheduled examination upon~~
- 36 ~~payment of an additional fee set by the board under rules adopted under~~
- 37 ~~section 7 of this chapter.~~
- 38 SECTION 10. IC 25-34.5-2-14, AS AMENDED BY
- 39 P.L.152-2024, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The committee shall issue
- 41 a student permit to an individual if the individual does the following:
- 42 (1) Submits the appropriate application to the committee.

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- 1 (2) Pays the fee established by the board.
- 2 (3) Submits written proof to the committee that the individual is
- 3 a student in good standing in a respiratory care school or
- 4 program that: ~~has been:~~
- 5 (A) ~~has been~~ approved by the committee for purposes of
- 6 section 8(b)(1) of this chapter;
- 7 (B) ~~approved by the committee for purposes of section~~
- 8 ~~10.1(a)(3)(B) is described in section 10.1(a)(3)~~ of this
- 9 chapter; or
- 10 (C) ~~has been~~ otherwise approved by the committee.
- 11 (4) Submits satisfactory evidence that the individual:
- 12 (A) does not have a conviction described in section 8(a)(1)
- 13 of this chapter; and
- 14 (B) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action
- 15 described in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter.
- 16 (b) The committee shall issue a student permit as soon as it is
- 17 reasonably practicable after an individual fulfills the requirements of
- 18 subsection (a).
- 19 (c) An individual who holds a student permit may only perform
- 20 respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:
- 21 (1) the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory
- 22 care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
- 23 (2) for which the successful completion has been documented
- 24 and that is available upon request to the committee.
- 25 (d) The committee may expand the list of respiratory care
- 26 procedures that an individual may perform under the individual's
- 27 student permit to include additional respiratory care procedures that
- 28 have been part of a course:
- 29 (1) that the individual has successfully completed in the
- 30 respiratory care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
- 31 (2) for which the individual's successful completion has been
- 32 documented.
- 33 Upon request by the committee, the individual shall provide
- 34 documentation of the successful completion of a course described in
- 35 this subsection.
- 36 (e) The procedures permitted under subsections (c) and (d) may be
- 37 performed only:
- 38 (1) on patients who are not critical care patients; and
- 39 (2) under the proximate supervision of a practitioner.
- 40 (f) A holder of a student permit shall meet in person at least one
- 41 (1) time each working day with the permit holder's supervising
- 42 practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner to review the

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1 permit holder's clinical activities. The supervising practitioner or a  
2 designated respiratory care practitioner shall review and countersign  
3 the entries that the permit holder makes in a patient's medical record  
4 not more than seven (7) calendar days after the permit holder makes the  
5 entries.

6 (g) A supervising practitioner may not supervise at one (1) time  
7 more than three (3) holders of student permits issued under this section.

8 (h) A student permit expires on the earliest of the following:

9 (1) The date the permit holder is issued a license under this  
10 article.

11 (2) The date the committee disapproves the permit holder's  
12 application for a license under this article.

13 (3) The date the permit holder ceases to be a student in good  
14 standing in a respiratory care program approved by the  
15 committee. The graduation of a student permit holder from a  
16 respiratory care program approved by the committee does not  
17 cause the student permit to expire under this subdivision.

18 (4) Sixty (60) days after the date that the permit holder graduates  
19 from a respiratory care program approved by the committee.

20 (5) The date that the permit holder is notified that the permit  
21 holder has failed the licensure examination.

22 (6) Two (2) years after the date of issuance. [

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