
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1130 (Berman) - Dentistry: outreach and support program

Version: June 23, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 9 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1130 requires the Dental Board to develop and implement an outreach and support program to recruit students from underserved communities in pursuing education and licensure in the field of dentistry.

Fiscal Impact: The Dental Board reports ongoing costs of approximately \$167,000 to develop and implement the program, which the board notes is not absorbable within existing resources (State Dentistry Fund). The board also notes additional travel costs of \$13,000 to conduct at least two outreach activities per year, which is anticipated to be absorbable.

Background: The board is responsible for licensing and regulating dental professionals in California. Additionally, the Dental Practice Act requires the board to be “organized into standing committees dealing with examinations, enforcement, and other subjects as the board deems appropriate.” The board has nine committees, four established in statute and one statutorily designated council. In addition to those required by law, the board has elected to establish several other committees to meet identified needs, including a specific Access to Care Committee which, according to the board, maintains awareness of the changes and challenges within the dental community. An ongoing objective is to identify areas where the board can assist with workforce development and according to the board, bring increased diversity in the dental profession.

Proposed Law:

- Requires the board to develop, implement, and maintain an outreach and support program to recruit students from underserved communities in the state to pursue education and licensure in the field of dentistry. As part of the program, requires the board to do all of the following:
 - Coordinate with public high schools, community colleges, universities, dental schools, and community-based organizations to identify and engage students from underserved communities with an interest in oral health care professions.
 - Provide accessible information to interested students regarding the educational pathway to becoming a licensed dentist in California, including undergraduate requirements, dental school admissions, licensure examinations, and application procedures.

- Offer guidance, directly or through partnerships, on preparing for and applying to accredited dental schools, including information on prerequisite coursework, application timelines, personal statement writing, and interview preparation.
 - Provide assistance and information regarding the California Dental Corps Loan Repayment Program and other available financial aid or scholarship opportunities for students pursuing dental education or entering the dental workforce in underserved communities.
 - Conduct at least two outreach activities per year, such as webinars, in-person presentations, or resource fairs, focused on students from underserved communities.
 - Develop and maintain a publicly available webpage containing all of the information required by this bill in a clear and comprehensible format in both English and Spanish.
- Authorizes the board to collaborate with relevant state and federal agencies, health professional organizations, and accredited educational institutions.
 - Requires the board to provide a summary of actions taken pursuant to the outreach and support program in its annual sunset report to the Legislature.
 - Defines “underserved community” to mean a geographic area or population group identified in a database compiled by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, or a medically underserved population, as defined in Section 128552 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - States legislative findings and declarations.

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