

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Buffy Wicks, Chair  
AB 1760 (Arambula) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes various changes and technical corrections to the Dental Practice Act.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Repeals the requirement that applicants through the Licensure by Examination pathway furnish satisfactory evidence of financial responsibility or liability insurance for injuries sustained by a patient as a result of the applicant's actions during the examination.
- 2) Requires an applicant for a dental license to retake the entire examination if they fail a section of a required examination after three attempts.
- 3) Deletes obsolete references to the prior Licensure by Portfolio pathway.
- 4) Makes changes to the requirements for the Licensure by Credential pathway.
- 5) Provides that each member of the elective facial cosmetic surgery credentialing committee serves at the pleasure of the Dental Board of California (DBC) and allows for meetings of the credentialing committee to take place in closed session.
- 6) Revises the minimum requirements for infection control and radiation safety courses and authorizes the DBC to audit those courses.
- 7) Makes additional minor changes and technical revisions to the Dental Practice Act.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No costs to the DBC or the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the DBC. According to the author:

This [bill] contains various technical and substantive cleanup provisions to the Dental Practice Act approved by the [DBC] between November 2024 and February of this year. This bill serves as a comprehensive omnibus vehicle to refine the Business and Professions Code, ensuring statutory language reflects current Board policies,

corrects outdated cross-references, and removes expired pathways to licensure. The justification for pursuing this bill now, rather than waiting for the Board's next sunset review in 2028, centers on the need to protect the dental consumers of California with administrative urgency and legislative efficiency.

- 2) **Background.** The DBC licenses an estimated 112,000 dental professionals, including approximately 43,500 licensed dentists, 46,000 registered dental assistants, and 2,300 registered dental assistants in extended functions. The DBC also establishes the duties and functions of unlicensed dental assistants. Dental hygienists are licensed and regulated by the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

The DBC last underwent sunset review in 2024. The DBC's sunset review oversight hearing included 17 issues and recommendations that were eligible to result in statutory changes. SB 1453 (Ashby), Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024, was enacted to extend the DBC's sunset and make various technical changes, statutory improvements, and policy reforms in response to issues raised during the Legislature's joint sunset review of the DBC. This bill makes additional changes to clean up the Dental Practice Act, improve operation of the DBC, and modify requirements for dental assistants' training.

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