

1 **ENROLLED**

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 FOR

4 **H. B. 2498**

5  
6 (By Delegates Morgan, Stephens, Hartman, Hatfield,  
7 Martin, D. Poling, Staggers and Rowan)

8 [Passed March 10, 2011; in effect ninety days from passage.]

9  
10 AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-4-19, §30-4-20, §30-4-23, §30-4-28  
11 and §30-4-29, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
12 all relating to the practice of dentistry; requiring  
13 notification of a dentist's death to the dental board by the  
14 deceased's personal representative; requiring dentists to  
15 notify the board of a life threatening occurrence, serious  
16 injury or death to patient as a result of dental treatment or  
17 related complications; providing for disciplinary action for  
18 failing to report; certain actions of dentists subject to  
19 disciplinary action by board; providing the board with the  
20 authority to require a licensee have a psychological  
21 evaluation prior to reinstatement of license; increasing  
22 personal representative's length of time to dispose of shares  
23 of a deceased shareholder in a dental corporation after  
24 dentist's death; and permitting a dental student to work in a  
25 public health setting under certain conditions.

26 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1           That §30-4-19, §30-4-20, §30-4-23, §30-4-28 and §30-4-29, of  
2 the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended reenacted,  
3 all to read as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 4. WEST VIRGINIA DENTAL PRACTICE ACT.**

5 **§30-4-19. Dental Office.**

6           (a) A licensed dentist within thirty days of changing his or  
7 her place of practice or establishing a practice at an additional  
8 dental office shall furnish the board with the address of the new  
9 or additional dental office.

10          (b) A personal representative of a deceased dentist shall  
11 notify the board of a dentist's death no later than 60 days from  
12 the death of the dentist.

13          (c) A licensed dental hygienist within thirty days of changing  
14 his or her place of employment or establishing employment at  
15 additional dental office shall furnish the board with the name and  
16 address of the new or additional employers.

17 **§30-4-20. Refusal to issue or renew, suspension or revocation of**  
18 **license; disciplinary action.**

19          (a) The board may refuse to issue, refuse to renew, suspend,  
20 revoke or limit any license or practice privilege of a licensee and  
21 may take disciplinary action against a licensee who, after hearing,  
22 has been adjudged by the board as unqualified for any of the  
23 following reasons:

24           (1) The presentation to the board of any diploma, license or  
25 certificate illegally or fraudulently obtained, or one obtained

1 from an institution which is not reputable, or one obtained from an  
2 unrecognized or irregular institution or state board;

3 (2) Suspension or revocation of a license issued by another  
4 state or territory on grounds which would be the basis of  
5 discipline in this state;

6 (3) Incompetent, negligent or willful misconduct in the  
7 practice of dentistry or dental hygiene, which shall include the  
8 departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal standards  
9 of acceptable and prevailing dental or dental hygiene practice in  
10 their area of expertise as shall be determined by the board. The  
11 board need not establish actual injury to the patient in order to  
12 adjudge a licensee guilty of this conduct;

13 (4) Engaging in conduct that indicates a lack of knowledge of,  
14 an inability to apply or the negligent application of principles or  
15 skills of dentistry or dental hygiene;

16 (5) Being guilty of gross ignorance or gross inefficiency in  
17 his or her profession;

18 (6) Being convicted of a felony; and a certified copy of the  
19 record of the court of conviction shall be sufficient proof of  
20 conviction;

21 (7) Announcing or otherwise holding himself or herself out to  
22 the public as a specialist or as being specially qualified in any  
23 particular branch of dentistry or as giving special attention to  
24 any branch of dentistry or as limiting his or her practice to any  
25 branch of dentistry without first complying with the requirements  
26 established by the board for the specialty and having been issued

1 a certificate of qualification in the specialty by the board;

2 (8) Failing to report to the board within 72 hours of becoming  
3 aware thereof any life threatening occurrence, serious injury or  
4 death of a patient resulting from dental treatment or complications  
5 following a dental procedure; or

6 (10) Being guilty of unprofessional conduct as contained in  
7 the American Dental Association principles of ethics and code of  
8 professional conduct. The following acts or any of them are  
9 conclusively presumed to be unprofessional conduct:

10 (A) Being guilty of any fraud or deception;

11 (B) Committing a criminal operation or being convicted of a  
12 crime involving moral turpitude;

13 (C) Abusing alcohol or drugs;

14 (D) Violating any professional confidence or disclosing any  
15 professional secret;

16 (E) Being grossly immoral;

17 (F) Harassing, abusing, intimidating, insulting, degrading or  
18 humiliating a patient physically, verbally or through another form  
19 of communication;

20 (G) Employing what are known as "cappers" or "steerers" to  
21 obtain business;

22 (H) Obtaining any fee by fraud or misrepresentation;

23 (I) Employing directly or indirectly, or directing or  
24 permitting any suspended or unlicensed person so employed, to  
25 perform operations of any kind or to treat lesions of the human  
26 teeth or jaws or correct malimposed formations thereof;

1 (J) Practicing, or offering, or undertaking to practice  
2 dentistry under any firm name or trade name not approved by the  
3 board;

4 (K) Having a professional connection or association with, or  
5 lending his or her name to another, for the illegal practice of  
6 dentistry, or professional connection or association with any  
7 person, firm or corporation holding himself or herself, themselves  
8 or itself out in any manner contrary to this article;

9 (L) Making use of any advertising relating to the use of any  
10 drug or medicine of unknown formula;

11 (M) Advertising to practice dentistry or perform any operation  
12 thereunder without causing pain;

13 (N) Advertising professional superiority or the performance of  
14 professional services in a superior manner;

15 (O) Advertising to guarantee any dental service;

16 (P) Advertising in any manner that is false or misleading in  
17 any material respect;

18 (Q) Soliciting subscriptions from individuals within or  
19 without the state for, or advertising or offering to individuals  
20 within or without the state, a course or instruction or course  
21 materials in any phase, part or branch of dentistry or dental  
22 hygiene in any journal, newspaper, magazine or dental publication,  
23 or by means of radio, television or United States mail, or in or by  
24 any other means of contacting individuals: *Provided*, That the  
25 provisions of this paragraph may not be construed so as to  
26 prohibit: (i) An individual dentist or dental hygienist from

1 presenting articles pertaining to procedures or technique to state  
2 or national journals or accepted dental publications; or (ii)  
3 educational institutions approved by the board from offering  
4 courses or instruction or course materials to individual dentists  
5 and dental hygienists from within or without the state; or

6 (R) Engaging in any action or conduct which would have  
7 warranted the denial of the license.

8 (b) The term advertising, as used in this section, shall be  
9 construed to include any type of public media.

10 (c) Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to, a  
11 reprimand, censure, probation, administrative fine not to exceed  
12 \$1,000 per day per violation and mandatory attendance at  
13 continuing professional education seminars.

14 **§30-4-23. Reinstatement.**

15 (a) Any dentist or dental hygienist against whom disciplinary  
16 action has been taken under the provisions of this article shall be  
17 afforded an opportunity to demonstrate the qualifications to resume  
18 practice. The application for reinstatement shall be in writing  
19 and subject to the procedures specified by the board by rule.

20 (b) The board may require a licensee to undergo a  
21 psychological evaluation to determine a licensee is competent to  
22 make decisions or if the licensee is impaired by drugs or alcohol.

23 **§30-4-28. Dental corporations.**

24 (a) All dental corporations created prior to July 1, 2001, are  
25 hereby continued.

26 (b) One or more dentists may organize and become a shareholder

1 or shareholders of a dental corporation domiciled within this state  
2 under the terms and conditions and subject to the limitations and  
3 restrictions specified by rule.

4 (c) No corporation may practice dentistry, or any of its  
5 branches, or hold itself out as being capable of doing so without  
6 a certificate of authorization from the board.

7 (d) When the Secretary of State receives a certificate of  
8 authorization to act as a dental corporation from the board, he or  
9 she shall attach the authorization to the corporation application  
10 and, upon compliance with the applicable provisions of chapter  
11 thirty-one of this code, the Secretary of State shall issue to the  
12 incorporators a certificate of incorporation for the dental  
13 corporation.

14 (e) A corporation holding a certificate of authorization must  
15 register annually, on or before June 30, on a form prescribed by  
16 the board and pay an annual registration fee in an amount specified  
17 by rule.

18 (f) A dental corporation may practice dentistry only through  
19 an individual dentist or dentists duly licensed to practice  
20 dentistry in this state, but the dentist or dentists may be  
21 employees rather than shareholders of the corporation.

22 (g) A dental corporation holding a certificate of  
23 authorization shall cease to engage in the practice of dentistry  
24 upon being notified by the board that any of its shareholders is no  
25 longer a duly licensed dentist or when any shares of the  
26 corporation have been sold or disposed of to a person who is not a

1 duly licensed dentist: *Provided*, That the personal representative  
2 of a deceased shareholder has a period, not to exceed twenty-four  
3 months from the date of the shareholder's death, to dispose of the  
4 shares; but nothing contained herein may be construed as affecting  
5 the existence of the corporation or its right to continue to  
6 operate for all lawful purposes other than the practice of  
7 dentistry.

8 **§30-4-29. Inapplicability of article.**

9 The provisions of this article do not apply to:

10 (1) A duly licensed physician or surgeon in the practice of  
11 his or her profession when rendering dental relief in emergency  
12 cases, unless he or she undertakes to reproduce or reproduces lost  
13 parts of the human teeth or to restore or replace lost or missing  
14 teeth in the human mouth;

15 (2) A dental laboratory in the performance of dental  
16 laboratory services as that term is defined in section one, article  
17 four-b of this chapter while the dental laboratory, in the  
18 performance of the work, conforms in all respects to the  
19 requirements of article four-b and further does not apply to  
20 persons performing dental laboratory services under the direct  
21 supervision of a licensed dentist or under the direct supervision  
22 of a person authorized under this article to perform any of the  
23 acts in this article defined to constitute the practice of  
24 dentistry while the work is performed in connection with, and as a  
25 part of, the dental practice of the licensed dentist or other  
26 authorized person and for his or her dental patients;



1           (3) Students enrolled in and regularly attending any dental  
2 college recognized by the state board of dental examiners, provided  
3 their acts are done in the dental college and under the direct and  
4 personal supervision of their instructor;

5           (4) Students enrolled in and regularly attending any dental  
6 college recognized by the state board of dental examiners may  
7 practice dentistry in a public health setting, provided their acts  
8 are done under the direct supervision of their instructor, adjunct  
9 instructor or a dentist;

10          (5) Licensed or registered dentists of another state  
11 temporarily operating a clinic under the auspices of a duly  
12 organized and reputable dental college or reputable dental society,  
13 or to one lecturing before a reputable society composed exclusively  
14 of dentists; or

15          (6) The practice of dentistry by dentists whose practice is  
16 confined exclusively to the service of the United States Army, the  
17 United States Navy, the United States Public Health Service, the  
18 United States Veteran's Bureau or any other authorized United  
19 States government agency or bureau.