

LB770

Include a Dental Assistant representative on the Nebraska Board of Dentistry

Nebraska Board of Dentistry

The Nebraska Board of Dentistry oversees licensed individuals who provide dental services within the state. Additionally, the board hears complaints against licensed and unlicensed individuals, investigates allegations, and takes disciplinary actions for violations of law. The goal of the Nebraska Board of Dentistry is to protect the oral health, safety and welfare of citizens.

Board of Dentistry Representation before and after LB770

Current makeup:

- 4 dentist members
- 2 dental school faculty members
- 2 hygienists
- 2 public members*

*1 public seat has remained vacant since 2020

Makeup after LB770

- 4 dentist members
 - 2 dental school faculty members
 - 2 hygienists
 - 1 licensed dental assistant
 - 1 public member
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Role of Dental Assistants in Dental Practices

Dental assistants play a valuable role in dental offices. In addition to directly assisting dentists in examinations and procedures, they also perform tasks like arranging and sterilizing instruments, and educating patients, as well as acting in administrative capacities like scheduling and billing.

Dental Assistant Licensing

LB770 is the culmination of a years-long effort by dental assistants that first started when they went through the 407 Credentialing Review process to establish their scope of practice and licensure in 2016 after several years of work. Senator Kolterman introduced their licensure bill in 2017, which was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

Under this process, to qualify as a Licensed Dental Assistant in Nebraska, a dental assistant must now graduate from an accredited dental assisting program or school or earn 1,500 hours of experience as a dental assistant within the past five years. Additionally, applicants must successfully complete the Nebraska dental assistants jurisprudence exam.

LB 770 ensures that dental assistants as newly licensed professionals working with the dental team, are represented.