



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Suite 1
Dover, Delaware 19901
302-739-3621

The Honorable John Carney
Governor

John A. McNeal
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 30, 2019

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Mr. J. Todd Webb, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 81 (License to Practice Dentistry)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 81, which would permit an individual to practice dentistry for the Division of Public Health (Division) under a provisional license. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation has the following observations.

The Delaware Code already allows dentists who practice for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to practice under a provisional license, assuming they meet all the rules to do so. For example, dentists must have completed a residency program or be licensed in another state and have three years of practice experience. A provisional license enables the holder to practice dentistry in Delaware for two years, and it will convert to a full license once the holder passes a practical exam and fulfills other requirements.

This bill has the stated goal of facilitating DPHs recruitment of dentists to serve those in need. The Division offers dental services to Medicaid-eligible clients under the age of 21 (as well as CHIP-eligible clients under age 19). Although Medicaid benefits for children include dental coverage, a report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) shows that in 2010, only 44.9% of Medicaid-covered children in Delaware received any type of dental care. One barrier to receiving care is an inadequate number and geographic distribution of dentists who treat Medicaid patients. Low reimbursement rates result in fewer providers willing to serve children who are on Medicaid. S.B. 81, however, could help increase the availability of dentists for Medicaid-eligible children by making it easier for dental providers who are not yet licensed in the state to work for the Division of Public Health.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

P&L/SB 81 license to practice dentistry 5-28-19