



**State of Tennessee**  
**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 945**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3269**

**By Tracy, Ketron**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3420

By Hill, Ramsey, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 5, relative to the practice of dentistry.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(c)(5)(c), is amended by deleting the words "seven (7) months" and substituting instead the words "eleven (11) months".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-115, is amended by deleting the second sentence in subsection (a) and inserting the following: "Such licensed and registered dental hygienists may practice as authorized in this section or § 63-5-108 only in the office of and under the direct and/or general supervision of a licensed and registered dentist, in authorized public health programs or at other locations otherwise authorized by this chapter."

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-115, is amended by deleting subsection (d) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(d)(1) Settings in which licensed and registered hygienists may engage in the provision of preventive dental care under the general supervision of a dentist through written protocol include nursing homes, skilled care facilities, nonprofit clinics and public health programs. Dental hygienists licensed and registered pursuant to this chapter are specifically permitted to render such preventive services as authorized in § 63-5-108 or by regulation of the board, as prescribed by the supervising dentist under a written protocol. Dental hygienists rendering such services shall be under the general supervision of a licensed dentist as specified in a written protocol between the supervising dentist and the hygienist which must be submitted in advance to the board. No dentist may enter into a written protocol with more than three (3) dental hygienists at any one time nor may any hygienist be engaged in a written protocol with more than three (3) dentists at any one time. The supervising dentist must process all patient billings. Each written protocol will be valid for a period of two (2) years at which time it must be renewed through resubmission to the board. Should a dentist cease to be the employer/supervisor of a dental hygienist where a written protocol is in force and on file with the board, the dentist must notify the board within ten (10) working days by certified mail/return receipt requested or electronic mail that the written protocol is no longer in force.

(2) Licensed and registered dental hygienists working under written protocol, in addition to those requirements enumerated under the general supervision as authorized by § 63-5-108(c)(5), must have actively practiced as a licensed dental hygienist for at least five (5) years and have practiced two thousand (2,000) hours in the preceding five (5) years or taught dental hygiene courses for two (2) of the preceding three (3) years in a dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation and completed six (6) hours of public health continuing education within the past two (2) years; provided, after satisfying the requirement of this subsection (d), in subsequent years the hygienist may work on a part-time basis.

(3) Each written protocol, required for off-site practice under general supervision, shall be submitted to the board by certified mail/return receipt requested and shall include at a minimum:

(A) The name, address, telephone number and license number of the employer (supervising) dentist;

(B) The name, address, telephone number and license number of the dental hygienist;

(C) The name, address, telephone number and other pertinent identification from all locations where the dental hygiene services are to be performed; and

(D) A statement signed by the dentist that the dentist and the dental hygienist that meets all minimum standards for general supervision as well as those required for practice under a written protocol as stipulated in this section and § 63-5-108.

(4) The board will receive each written protocol submitted and keep those on file which meet the minimum requirements enumerated in subsection (f). Those received by the board and determined not to be complete shall be returned to the submitting dentist within thirty (30) days of receipt with a request for the additional information required. The dentist may then re-submit an amended written protocol to the board.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 3269

PASSED: April 19, 2012

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2012

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR