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**Notice of Proposed Changes to Regulations of the
Board of Dental Examiners**

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

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1. What are the regulations being proposed? Why are the regulations being amended?

The Board currently uses Professional Background Information Services (PBIS) to gather certain documents from the applicant and agencies to meet the license application requirements set out in regulations. Professional Background Information Services has notified the Board that they will no longer be in business as of December 31, 2020, and will stop accepting new applications as of November 15, 2020.

The Board must amend the regulations to accommodate this change and will now be requiring the applicant to submit certain documents directly to the Board, and submit requests to other agencies for documents to be sent directly from the agency to the Board.

The proposed amending of regulations to accommodate this change are explained below.

12 AAC 28.932. Additional documentation for licensure.

This proposed new section will allow the Board discretion in requiring additional documentation if necessary to substantiate the qualifications for licensure as set out in statute and regulations. The purpose is to allow for additional documentation if the documents received are not adequate for the Board to make an informed decision for approval of a license.

12 AAC 28.935. Dental hygienist licensure by examination.

This section is proposed to be amended to add an official transcript showing a dental hygienist degree to the application requirements. The transcripts were typically submitted with the PBIS report. It also will require the transcripts to be sent directly from the dental hygiene program to the department. A new paragraph is also being added to require an applicant for a dental hygiene license to submit an affidavit certifying the applicant is not impaired to the extent it would affect the

applicant's ability to practice dental hygiene. This amendment is proposed to conform with AS 08.32.014(a)(1)(H).

Subsection (d) is proposed to be repealed because it requires the PBIS credentials review, which will no longer be required.

Subsection (e) is being amended by removing the PBIS report, and requiring the applicant to request submission of the verifications of licensure from all jurisdictions where the applicant may have ever held a license as a dental hygienist. There is additional new language requiring the verifications to come directly to the department from the jurisdiction.

The Editor's Note is also being removed that refers to the PBIS report.

12 AAC 28.937. Dental hygienist licensure by credentials.

This section is being amended by removing the PBIS report, requiring the applicant to submit certain documents to the department, and requiring the applicant to request certain documents to be submitted directly to the department from the agency.

In addition, a new paragraph is being added to require an applicant for a dental hygiene license to submit an affidavit certifying the applicant is not impaired to the extent it would affect the applicant's ability to practice dental hygiene. This amendment is proposed to conform with AS 08.32.014(a)(1)(H).

The Editor's Note is being removed that refers to the PBIS report.

12 AAC 28.940. Dental licensure by examination.

12 AAC 28.940(b)(3) is being amended by adding language for the affidavit stating the applicant is not an impaired practitioner. This language is being added to mirror the language in the license by credentials regulations.

Subsection (b) is being amended by adding a new paragraph requiring the applicant to request an official transcript to be submitted directly to the department from an accredited dental school showing a dental degree.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, 12 AAC 28.940(b)(8)(B)(vi) is being amended by changing the end date of the operative examination using a mannequin. This change will allow a regional examination that does not allow for a live patient examination through December 31, 2021.

Subsection (d) and paragraph (e)(1) are being repealed, which require the submission of the PBIS report.

The Editor's Note is being removed that refers to the PBIS report.

12 AAC 28.951. Dental licensure by credentials.

This section is being amended by removing the PBIS report, requiring the applicant to submit certain documents to the department, and requiring the applicant to request certain documents to be submitted directly to the department from the agency.

The Editor's Note is also being removed that refers to the PBIS report.

2. Will these changes affect current licensees?

No, these changes will only impact new applicants.

3. Are there any costs to the applicant for these changes?

There are no additional costs expected to comply with the proposed regulations. The applicant will no longer be required to obtain the PBIS report, therefore, the cost of the report will no longer be required. An applicant will save a minimum of \$400 for a hygienist applying by examination, to \$700 for a dentist applying by credentials.

4. What are the positive and negative consequences of these changes?

The positive consequences of these changes include a very substantial cost savings to the applicant, and not having to work with two separate entities while applying for licensure.

There are no foreseen negative consequences to the proposed changes.

When will the new regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, or choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations go to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the lieutenant governor for filing. Regulations take effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the lieutenant governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.