



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Raised Bill No. 993**

LCO No. 3704



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND EXPANDED  
FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-112a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Direct supervision" means a licensed dentist has authorized  
5 certain procedures to be performed on a patient by a dental assistant  
6 with such dentist remaining on-site in the dental office while such  
7 procedures are performed and that, prior to the patient's departure  
8 from the dental office, such dentist reviews and approves the  
9 treatment performed by the dental assistant;

10 (2) "Dental assistant" means a noncredentialed dental assistant, a  
11 credentialed dental assistant or an expanded function dental auxiliary;

12 (3) "Noncredentialed dental assistant" means a person who (A) has  
13 completed on-the-job training in dental assisting under the direct

14 supervision, control and responsibility of an employing, licensed  
15 dentist, or (B) has successfully completed a dental assistant education  
16 program accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission  
17 on Dental Accreditation or, (C) has successfully completed a dental  
18 assistant program that is accredited or recognized by the New England  
19 Association of Schools and Colleges, and (D) has met any requirements  
20 established by the Commissioner of Public Health;

21 (4) "Credentialed dental assistant" means a person who successfully  
22 completed the Dental Assisting National Board's certified dental  
23 assistant or certified orthodontic assistant examination and maintains  
24 current certification by the Dental Assisting National Board as a dental  
25 assistant or orthodontic assistant; and

26 (5) "Expanded function dental auxiliary" means a credentialed  
27 dental assistant, dental hygienist licensed under chapter 379a, a person  
28 who has served as an expanded function dental auxiliary for a period  
29 of not less than three years in the United States armed forces or the  
30 United States Department of Health and Human Services' United  
31 States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or Indian Health  
32 Service, or a person holding a diploma from a foreign dental school  
33 who has successfully completed (A) an expanded function dental  
34 auxiliary program at an institution of higher education that is  
35 accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the  
36 American Dental Association and that includes: (i) A curriculum with  
37 courses relating to didactic and laboratory preclinical objectives for  
38 skills used by an expanded function dental auxiliary and that requires  
39 demonstration of such skills prior to advancing to clinical practice; (ii)  
40 not less than four hours of education in the areas of law and ethics  
41 applicable to the dental profession; and (iii) a comprehensive clinical  
42 examination; and (B) a comprehensive written examination in  
43 expanded functions administered by the Dental Assisting National  
44 Board.

45 (b) A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants such dental

46 procedures as the dentist may deem advisable, including the taking of  
47 dental x-rays if the dental assistant can demonstrate successful  
48 completion of the dental [radiography portion of an examination  
49 prescribed] radiation health and safety examination administered by  
50 the Dental Assisting National Board, but such procedures shall be  
51 performed under the dentist's supervision and control and the dentist  
52 shall assume responsibility for such procedures; provided such  
53 assistants may not engage in: (1) Diagnosis for dental procedures or  
54 dental treatment; (2) the cutting or removal of any hard or soft tissue  
55 or suturing; (3) the prescribing of drugs or medications that require the  
56 written or oral order of a licensed dentist or physician; (4) the  
57 administration of local, parenteral, inhalation or general anesthetic  
58 agents in connection with any dental operative procedure; (5) the  
59 taking of any impression of the teeth or jaws or the relationship of the  
60 teeth or jaws for the purpose of fabricating any appliance or prosthesis,  
61 unless such dental assistant is an expanded function dental auxiliary;  
62 (6) the placing, finishing and adjustment of temporary or final  
63 restorations, capping materials and cement bases, unless such dental  
64 assistant is an expanded function dental auxiliary; [or] (7) the practice  
65 of dental hygiene as defined in section 20-126l; or (8) coronal polishing,  
66 unless such dental assistant is an expanded function dental auxiliary  
67 and the procedure is not represented or billed as prophylaxis.

68 (c) An expanded function dental auxiliary shall: (1) Maintain dental  
69 assistant or orthodontic assistant certification by the Dental Assisting  
70 National Board or dental hygiene licensure in accordance with chapter  
71 379a; (2) conspicuously display such certificate or license in the place  
72 of employment where such expanded function dental auxiliary  
73 services are performed; (3) maintain professional liability insurance or  
74 other indemnity against liability for professional malpractice while  
75 employed in such capacity in an amount that is not less than five  
76 hundred thousand dollars for one person, per occurrence, with an  
77 aggregate liability of not less than one million five hundred thousand  
78 dollars; and (4) limit his or her practice to providing services under the

79 direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

80 (d) Each dentist employing or engaging the services of an expanded  
81 function dental auxiliary shall: (1) Before hiring or otherwise engaging  
82 the services of an expanded function dental auxiliary, verify that the  
83 expanded function dental auxiliary has successfully completed the  
84 requirements for an expanded function dental auxiliary, as described  
85 in this section; (2) maintain documentation of the expanded function  
86 dental auxiliary's completion of such requirements on the premises  
87 where the expanded function dental auxiliary provides services; (3)  
88 make such documentation available to the Department of Public  
89 Health upon request; and (4) supervise not more than two expanded  
90 function dental auxiliaries who are providing services at one time or, if  
91 the dentist's practice is limited to orthodontics, supervise not more  
92 than four expanded function dental auxiliaries who are providing  
93 services at one time.

94 (e) An expanded function dental auxiliary may practice in settings  
95 that include, but are not limited to, (A) a public health facility, as  
96 defined in section 20-126l, or (B) a dental health professional shortage  
97 area as designated by the federal Health Resources and Services  
98 Administration.

99 (f) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the  
100 State Dental Commission, established under section 20-103a, shall  
101 adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the  
102 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include, but not be  
103 limited to: (1) Identification of the types of procedures that may be  
104 performed by a noncredentialed dental assistant, credentialed dental  
105 assistant and an expanded function dental auxiliary; (2) identification  
106 of the appropriate number of didactic, preclinical and clinical hours or  
107 number of procedures to be evaluated for clinical competency for each  
108 skill employed by an expanded function dental auxiliary; and (3) a  
109 description of the levels of supervision required for procedures to be  
110 performed by an expanded function dental auxiliary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	20-112a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To modernize dental assisting in the state by defining services that may be performed by certain dental professionals.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*