

The State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) proposes new rule 22 TAC §103.10 concerning Exemption from Licensure for Certain Military Spouses. The proposed new rule is mandated by the passage of SB 1200 (86th Regular Legislative Session) and relates to exemption from licensure for certain military spouses.

New rule 22 TAC §103.10, Exemption from Licensures for Certain Military Spouses regarding dental hygienists, allows qualified military spouses to practice as a dental hygienist without obtaining a dental hygienist license during the time the military service member to whom the military spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in Texas. The exemption cannot exceed three years, and practice must be authorized by the Board after verifying that the military spouse holds an active license in good standing in another state with substantially equivalent requirements for licensure as Texas.

FISCAL NOTE: W. Boyd Bush, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director, has determined that for the first five-year period the proposed rule is in effect, the proposed rule does not have foreseeable implications relating to cost or revenues of the state or local governments.

PUBLIC BENEFIT-COST NOTE: W. Boyd Bush, Jr. has also determined that for the first five-year period the proposed rule is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of this rule will be the agency's implementation of legislative direction for the protection of public safety and welfare.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT: W. Boyd Bush, Jr. has also determined that the proposed rule does not affect local economies and employment.

SMALL AND MICRO-BUSINESS, RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT: W. Boyd Bush, Jr. has determined that no economic impact statement and regulatory flexibility analysis for small businesses, micro-businesses, and rural communities is necessary for this rule.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT: The Board has determined that for the first five-year period the proposed rule is in effect, the following government growth effects apply: (1) the rule does not create or eliminate a government program; (2) implementation of the proposed rule does not require the creation or elimination of employee positions; (3) the implementation of the proposed rule does not require an increase or decrease in future appropriations; (4) the proposed rule does not require an increase in fees paid to the agency; (5) the proposed rule does not create a new regulation; (6) the proposed rule does not expand an existing regulation; (7) the proposed rule does not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to it; and (8) the proposed rule does not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

COST TO REGULATED PERSONS: This proposed rule is necessary to implement legislation and, therefore, is not subject to Tex. Gov't. Code §2001.0045.

Comments on the proposed new rule may be submitted to W. Boyd Bush, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director, 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-800, Austin, Texas 78701, by fax to (512) 305-9364, or by email to official_rules_comments@tsbde.texas.gov for 30 days following the date that the

proposed rule is published in the *Texas Register*. To be considered for purposes of this rulemaking, comments must be: (1) postmarked or shipped by the last day of the comment period; or (2) faxed or e-mailed by midnight on the last day of the comment period.

This rule is proposed under Texas Occupations Code §254.001(a), which gives the Board authority to adopt rules necessary to perform its duties and ensure compliance with state laws relating to the practice of dentistry to protect the public health and safety. The new rule is also proposed under Texas Occupations Code §55.0041, which mandates the Board to adopt rules to implement that section.

This rule implements the requirements of SB 1200 of the 86th Legislature and Texas Occupations Code § 55.0041.

Legal counsel for the Board has reviewed the proposed rule and has found it to be within the Board's authority to adopt.

<rule>

§103.10 Exemption from Licensure for Certain Military Spouses.

(a) The executive director of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners must authorize a qualified military spouse to practice as a dental hygienist in Texas without obtaining a license in accordance with §55.0041(a), Texas Occupations Code. This authorization to practice is valid during the time the military service member to whom the military spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in Texas, but is not to exceed three years.

(b) In order to receive authorization to practice the military spouse must:

(1) hold an active dental hygienist license in another state, territory, Canadian province, or country that:

(A) has licensing requirements that are determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to the requirements for certification in Texas; and

(B) is not subject to any restriction, disciplinary order, probation, or investigation;

(2) notify the board of the military spouse's intent to practice in Texas on a form prescribed by the board; and

(3) submit proof of the military spouse's residency in this state, a copy of the spouse's military identification card, and proof of the military member's status as an active duty military service member as defined by §437.001(1), Texas Government Code (relating to Definitions).

(c) While authorized to practice as a dental hygienist in Texas, the military spouse shall comply with all other laws and regulations applicable to the practice of dentistry in Texas.

(d) Once the board receives the form containing notice of a military spouse's intent to practice in Texas, the board shall verify whether the military spouse's license in another state, territory, Canadian province, or country is active and in good standing. Additionally, the board shall determine whether the licensing requirements in that jurisdiction are substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in Texas.