



400 E. Randolph St., Suite 2305, Chicago, IL 60601 •• (800) 550-4342 •• www.idha.net •• mail@idha.net

On Friday, April 8th, after several amended versions of HB4501 were discussed between the Illinois Dental Hygienists' Association (IDHA), the Chair of the IL Senate Committee on Licensed Activities, and the Illinois State Dental Society, the Bill passed as amended out of committee. Subsequently, HB4501, as amended, was then passed in the full IL Senate and then by the IL House of Representatives by concurrence. The Bill will now be sent to the Governor to sign into law.

HB4501 still has several areas of concern based on public safety. The final amendments to the Bill resulted in the patient age that a dental assistant can scale teeth supragingivally being increased to age 17, and dental assistants will now be able to scale teeth of patients who are eligible for Medicaid or are uninsured or whose family income does not exceed 300% of the Federal Poverty level.

There were positive developments from this legislation: 1) increased scope of practice of the Public Health Dental Hygienist (PHDH) to include nursing homes and prison settings, 2) PHDH may treat patients who are eligible for Medicaid or uninsured or have a family income of up to 300% of the Federal Poverty level, 3) having a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) assist in the completion of dental exams for nursing home patients utilizing teledentistry, and 4) the doubling of the required training hours of a dental assistant who may scale from 16 hours to 32 hours. The amended wording of the Bill further detailed the ability of a RDH to record case histories and oral conditions observed at any time prior to an exam by a dentist and to provide patient education in schools, long-term care facilities, and prisons.

Legislation rarely goes the way everyone hopes, but IDHA is proud of the way Illinois dental hygienists and the public rose to support our legislative efforts by submitting witness slips and contacting our Illinois Legislators. This further demonstrates the dental hygiene profession, and its supporters, are being protective of the oral and overall general health of the public. IDHA will continue the pursuit of increasing access to quality oral healthcare provided by licensed providers and continue promoting that anyone providing oral health services is appropriately trained and supervised.

Respectfully submitted,
The Illinois Dental Hygienists' Association