

DENTAL STATUTES THAT WILL CHANGE AS OF JULY 1, 2026 FROM HB 3934

This year's legislation was developed collaboratively by several groups and is intended to help address workforce shortages in all areas of dentistry. Below are the changes included in this year's legislative request bill.

1. **Canadian dentists and hygienists** that graduated from a Canadian Accredited Dental School are eligible for licensure in Oklahoma.
2. **Dental Assistants** will be able to work under general supervision only to take radiograph/xrays with the appropriate expanded duty permit. ¹ This is the only expanded function a dental assistant may perform under general supervision.
3. **59 O.S. § 328.23a and § 328.24**, also allows a dental assistant to “assist” a hygienist under the general supervision of a dentist. The intent of this is for the dental assistant to be able to assist with instruments and suction and DOES NOT allow the assistant to perform ANY expended functions except radiograph/xrays.
4. The **General Dental Practice Committee** will be changing from ten members to eighteen members. If you are interested in participating in this committee you may send an email with your resume and a letter explaining your interest in participating in the committee.
5. **59 O.S. § 328.19(C)**, “Any auxillary health care provider, licensed or permitted by the state that is working UNDER THE SUPERVISION of a dentist, shall be limited to practicing within the scope of dentistry.”²
6. **ADEX** – the American board of dental examiners now includes, WREB, CITA and CDCA as they have all merged. Yes, the Board still accepts all the prior exams as listed. All prior scores for those exams are now located at ADEX.

¹ Please review the definitions of General Supervision (dentist not in the office but staff working under directions) and Direct Supervision (dentist in the office directly supervising). Please review 59 OS § 328.3 and 328.24 of the statutes.

² This does not apply to an allopathic or osteopathic physician as they are not required to be supervised and are providing care pursuant to their license.

7. **Please review the MINIMUM requirements for patient records at 59 O.S. § 328.31b.** The Board has had several actions in cases where basic required information was missing from patient records.
8. **59 O.S. § 328.24**, now allows a **hygienist** to administer **nitrous oxide**, perform **local anesthesia** and provide **THERAPUTIC use of lasers** under the general supervision of a dentist.
9. **59 O.S. § 328.24(B)** *New language* – “A patient of record may be established by teledentistry for the purposes of an emergency or hygiene treatment if the patient is physically located at the dental office or treatment facility and the dentist is not readily available.”
10. **59 O.S. § 328.21a.** (New language) – The Oklahoma University College of Dentistry will be starting a program to evaluate foreign trained dentists for possible licensure as a Dental Hygienist. It is a comprehensive program with the same staff that supervises the regular Dental Hygiene program.

Study session October 2-3 at the Choctaw Resort in Durant

Each year the Board has a study session to review the statutes and discuss updates that are requested for the purpose of next years legislative request. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend. If you have a suggestion for changes or you would like to do a presentation you are asked to email susan.rogers@dentistry.ok.gov. Please put in the subject line, suggestion for legislation.