

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF ACT 14 OF 1955, AS AMENDED [ARK. STAT. 72-541], TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON PRACTICING DENTISTRY OR DENTAL HYGIENE WITHOUT A LICENSE IS GUILTY OF A CLASS 'D' FELONY, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE ARKANSAS CRIMINAL CODE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Act 14 of 1955, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 72-541, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 8. Any person who violates any provision of Section 7 (72-541) shall be guilty of a Class 'D' felony and shall be subject to imprisonment not to exceed 6 years in the Department of Correction and/or by a fine of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). Each unauthorized act constitutes a separate offense."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that existing laws regulating the practice of dentistry provide only that the unlicensed practice of dentistry and dental hygiene is a misdemeanor criminal offense; that provision providing that the unlicensed practice of dentistry or dental hygiene to be a Class "D" felony is necessary to ensure the proper enforcement of the provisions governing the practice of dentistry in the State of Arkansas; that there is an emergency need for such provision; and that enactment of this measure will remedy this dangerous situation. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, should take effect and be enforced from the date of its approval.