

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23 OF ACT 14 OF 1955, AS AMENDED, [ARK. STAT. 72-556] TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS TO LICENSE DENTAL HYGIENISTS ONLY BY CREDENTIALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 23 of Act 14 of 1955, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 72-556, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 23. A dental hygienist who desires to practice his profession in the State of Arkansas and who has been practicing his profession continuously for a period of five (5) years or more, next preceding the date of the application hereinafter mentioned, by virtue of a license lawfully issued by the authority of another state, territory or the District of Columbia, where the standard of proficiency at least equals that of the State of Arkansas, may apply in writing to the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners for a license to practice his profession in the State of Arkansas without undergoing the examination required for licensing provided for in Section 21 (72-554). The application shall be accompanied by a fee to be prescribed by the Board which shall be in an amount reasonably calculated to cover the costs of processing the application, the original or certified copy of the original license under which he has been practicing his profession, or certificate from the authority which issued the license setting forth the applicant's moral reputation, and character, and professional ability, and such other information or data as the Board may deem necessary or expedient. Upon furnishing satisfactory proof of his fitnesses contemplated herein, the Board may, in its discretion, issue a license to practice his profession to such applicant without further cost except as otherwise provided in this Act for the renewal of licenses.

SECTION 2. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.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 providing for the licensing of dentists and dental hygienists by credentials, as well as the additional burden of reciprocity with the State from which the dental hygienist was originally licensed; that provision for the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners to license dental hygienists only by credentials and removing dentists from license here by credentials and eliminating reciprocity with another state 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.

APPROVED: 4/1/87
