

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB628

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 17, 2021
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Morfeld
One Liner: Change provisions relating to faculty licenses under the Dentistry Practice Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, M., Day, Hansen, B., Murman, Walz, Williams
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Adam Morfeld
Janet Guthmiller
Mark Latta

Representing:

Introducer
University of Nebraska College of Dentistry
Creighton University

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 628 would amend language in the Dentistry Practice Act to state that an individual with a faculty license must have a degree or certification from an accredited school or college of dentistry. Current law requires only that they received postgraduate education at an accredited school or college of dentistry. It also adds language to state they may participate in university sponsored programs. [Section 1, p. 2, lines 3-14].

Explanation of amendments:

A hearing on AM 1129 to LB 628 was held on April 28, 2021.

Testimony on the bill is as follows:

Proponents:

Senator Adam Morfeld - Introducer

Dr. Janet Guthmiller - Dean of the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry

Opponents:

None

Neutral:

None

AM 1129 strikes the original sections of LB 628 and becomes the bill. AM 1129 would amend provisions in the Dentistry Practice Act relating to dental faculty licensees.

AM 1129 would amend statutes to allow a faculty licensee to participate in an institutionally administered faculty practice, with no restriction that the practice be only at the college of dentistry where the faculty member is employed. [p. 1, lines 11-12]. It would also allow the faculty member who did not graduate from an accredited school or college of dentistry who receives a faculty license to only practice clinical disciplines in which the licensee has practiced under a license within the past three years in another jurisdiction, with approval of the Board of Dentistry. [p. 1, lines 16-19].

AM 1129 would remove some requirements for an individual who has graduated from an accredited school or college of dentistry to obtaining a faculty license, including removing the requirement of having a contract of employment as a full-time faculty member at an accredited school or college of dentistry, and removing continuing clinical competency requirements. [p. 2, lines 9-10; 13-14].

The amendment would allow an individual who graduated from a nonaccredited school or college of dentistry who has had a license in the past three years in another jurisdiction to be eligible for a faculty license, or if the applicant has additional education determined by the board to be equivalent to a program that would be a postgraduate degree in operative dentistry [p. 2, lines 18-20; 25-28]. The individual would not have to complete continuing clinical competency, but must pass at least one of the five following exams:

1. Part I and Part II of the National Board Dental Examinations administered by the joint commission;
 2. The Integrated National Board Dental Examination administered by the joint commission;
 3. A specialty board examination recognized by the national commission;
 4. An examination administered by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada,
- or
5. An equivalent examination as determined by the Board of Dentistry.

An individual who graduated from a nonaccredited school who is applying for a faculty license based upon additional education would need to present a portfolio of academic achievements, credentials, certifications, letters of recommendation, and a list of publications to the board. Faculty licenses could only be renewed if the faculty licensee completes continuing education and demonstrates continued employment at an accredited school or college of dentistry in the State of Nebraska. [p. 3, lines 2-26].

The intention of the additional and stricken language in Section 1, subsection 1 is to allow faculty members to practice off-campus within the scope of a practice agreement with local hospitals or clinics, not to open an unaffiliated practice based solely upon the faculty license.

AM 1129 contains an emergency clause.

John Arch, Chairperson