

CHAPTER 235

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 231]

DENTAL HYGIENISTS--

PERFORMANCE OF DENTAL OPERATIONS OR SERVICES

AN ACT Relating to dental hygienists; and amending section 27, chapter 16, Laws of 1923 as amended by section 4, chapter 47, Laws of 1969 and RCW 18.29.050.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Section 1. Section 27, chapter 16, Laws of 1923 as amended by section 4, chapter 47, Laws of 1969 and RCW 18.29.050 are each amended to read as follows:

Any person licensed as a dental hygienist in this state may remove deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth, may apply topical preventive or prophylactic agents, ((and)) may polish and smooth restorations, ((but shall not perform any other operation on the teeth or tissues of the mouth)) may perform root planing and soft-tissue curettage, and may perform other dental operations and services delegated to them by a licensed dentist: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That licensed dental hygienists shall in no event perform the following dental operations or services:

(1) Any surgical removal of tissue of the oral cavity;

(2) Any prescription of drugs or medications requiring the written order or prescription of a licensed dentist or physician;

(3) Any diagnosis for treatment or treatment planning; or

(4) The taking of any impression of the teeth or jaw, or the relationships of the teeth or jaws, for the purpose of fabricating any intra-oral restoration, appliance, or prosthesis.

Such licensed dental hygienists may ((operate)) perform dental operations and services only under the ((direct)) supervision of a licensed dentist, and under such supervision may be employed by hospitals, boards of education of public or private schools, county boards, boards of health, or public or charitable institutions, or in dental offices; PROVIDED, That the number of hygienists so employed in any dental office shall not exceed twice in number the licensed dentists practicing therein.

Passed the Senate March 16, 1971.

Passed the House May 7, 1971.

Approved by the Governor May 20, 1971.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 21, 1971.