



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5399***

LCO No. 2162



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DENTISTRY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-112a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Direct supervision" means a licensed dentist has authorized  
5 certain procedures to be performed on a patient by a dental assistant or  
6 an expanded function dental assistant with such dentist remaining on-  
7 site in the dental office or treatment facility while such procedures are  
8 being performed by the dental assistant or expanded function dental  
9 assistant and that, prior to the patient's departure from the dental office,  
10 such dentist reviews and approves the treatment performed by the  
11 dental assistant or expanded function dental assistant;

12 (2) "Indirect supervision" means a licensed dentist is in the dental  
13 office or treatment facility, has personally diagnosed the condition,  
14 planned the treatment, authorized the procedures to be performed and  
15 remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures

16 are being performed by the dental assistant or expanded function dental  
17 assistant and evaluates the performance of the dental assistant or  
18 expanded function dental assistant;

19 (3) "Dental assistant" means a person who: (A) Has (i) completed on-  
20 the-job training in dental assisting under direct supervision, (ii)  
21 successfully completed a dental assistant education program accredited  
22 by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental  
23 Accreditation, or (iii) successfully completed a dental assistant  
24 education program that is accredited or recognized by any national or  
25 regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States  
26 Department of Education; and (B) meets any requirements established  
27 by the Commissioner of Public Health in regulations adopted pursuant  
28 to subsection (f) of this section;

29 (4) "Expanded function dental assistant" means a dental assistant  
30 who has passed the Dental Assisting National Board's certified dental  
31 assistant or certified orthodontic assistant examination and then  
32 successfully completed: (A) An expanded function dental assistant  
33 program at an institution of higher education that is accredited by the  
34 Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental  
35 Association that includes (i) educational courses relating to didactic and  
36 laboratory preclinical objectives for skills used by an expanded function  
37 dental assistant and that requires demonstration of such skills prior to  
38 advancing to clinical practice, (ii) not less than four hours of education  
39 in the area of ethics and professional standards for dental professionals,  
40 and (iii) a comprehensive clinical examination administered by the  
41 institution of higher education at the conclusion of such program; and  
42 (B) a comprehensive written examination concerning certified  
43 preventive functions and certified restorative functions administered by  
44 the Dental Assisting National Board; and

45 (5) "Fluoride varnish treatment" means the application of a highly  
46 concentrated form of fluoride to the surface of the teeth.

47 (b) Each expanded function dental assistant shall: (1) Maintain dental  
48 assistant or orthodontic assistant certification from the Dental Assisting  
49 National Board; (2) conspicuously display his or her dental assistant or  
50 orthodontic assistant certificate at his or her place of employment or  
51 place where he or she provides expanded function dental assistant  
52 services; (3) maintain professional liability insurance or other indemnity  
53 against liability for professional malpractice in an amount not less than  
54 five hundred thousand dollars for one person, per occurrence, with an  
55 aggregate liability of not less than one million five hundred thousand  
56 dollars while employed as an expanded function dental assistant; (4)  
57 provide expanded function dental assistant services only under direct  
58 or indirect supervision; and (5) meet any requirements established by  
59 the Commissioner of Public Health in regulations adopted pursuant to  
60 subsection (f) of this section.

61 (c) (1) A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants such dental  
62 procedures as the dentist may deem advisable, including: (A) The taking  
63 of dental x-rays if the dental assistant can demonstrate successful  
64 completion of the dental radiation health and safety examination  
65 administered by the Dental Assisting National Board or a radiation  
66 health and safety competency assessment administered by a dental  
67 education program in the state that is accredited by the American Dental  
68 Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation; (B) the taking of  
69 impressions of teeth for study models; and (C) the provision of fluoride  
70 varnish treatments. [Such procedures] The procedures described in  
71 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this subdivision shall be performed under  
72 the direct supervision of a licensed dentist and the dentist providing  
73 direct supervision shall assume responsibility for such procedures.

74 (2) A licensed dentist may delegate to an expanded function dental  
75 assistant such dental procedures as the dentist may deem advisable,  
76 including: (A) The placing, finishing and adjustment of temporary  
77 restorations and long-term individual fillings, capping materials and  
78 cement bases; (B) oral health education for patients; (C) dental sealants;  
79 (D) coronal polishing, provided the procedure is not represented or

80 billed as prophylaxis; (E) administration of topical anesthetic under the  
81 direct supervision of the dentist prior to the administration of local  
82 anesthetic by a dentist or dental hygienist; and (F) taking alginate  
83 impressions of teeth, under the direct supervision of the dentist, for use  
84 in study models, orthodontic appliances, whitening trays, mouth  
85 guards or fabrication of temporary crowns. Such procedures shall be  
86 performed under either direct or indirect supervision, except as  
87 specifically provided in this subdivision, and the dentist providing such  
88 supervision shall assume responsibility for such procedures.

89 (3) (A) No licensed dentist may delegate dental procedures to a dental  
90 assistant or expanded function dental assistant unless the dental  
91 assistant or expanded function dental assistant provides records  
92 demonstrating successful completion of the Dental Assisting National  
93 Board's infection control examination or an infection control  
94 competency assessment administered by a dental education program in  
95 the state that is accredited by the American Dental Association's  
96 Commission on Dental Accreditation, except as provided in subdivision  
97 (2) of this subsection, (B) a dental assistant may receive not more than  
98 fifteen months of on-the-job training by a licensed dentist for purposes  
99 of preparing the dental assistant for the infection control examination or  
100 infection control competency assessment, and (C) any licensed dentist  
101 who delegates dental procedures to a dental assistant shall retain and  
102 make such records available for inspection upon request of the  
103 Department of Public Health.

104 (4) On and after January 1, 2018, upon successful completion of the  
105 Dental Assisting National Board's infection control examination or an  
106 infection control competency assessment administered by a dental  
107 education program in the state that is accredited by the American Dental  
108 Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, each dental  
109 assistant or expanded function dental assistant shall complete not less  
110 than one hour of training or education in infection control in a dental  
111 setting every two years, including, but not limited to, courses, including  
112 online courses, offered or approved by a dental school or another

113 institution of higher education that is accredited or recognized by the  
114 Commission on Dental Accreditation, a regional accrediting  
115 organization, the American Dental Association or a state, district or local  
116 dental association or society affiliated with the American Dental  
117 Association or the American Dental Assistants Association.

118 (d) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, under no  
119 circumstances may a dental assistant or expanded function dental  
120 assistant engage in: (1) Diagnosis for dental procedures or dental  
121 treatment; (2) the cutting or removal of any hard or soft tissue or  
122 suturing; (3) the prescribing of drugs or medications that require the  
123 written or oral order of a licensed dentist or physician; (4) the  
124 administration of local, parenteral, inhalation or general anesthetic  
125 agents in connection with any dental operative procedure; (5) the taking  
126 of any final impression of the teeth or jaws or the relationship of the  
127 teeth or jaws for the purpose of fabricating any appliance or prosthesis;  
128 or (6) the practice of dental hygiene as defined in section 20-126l.

129 (e) Each licensed dentist employing or otherwise engaging the  
130 services of an expanded function dental assistant shall: (1) Prior to hiring  
131 or otherwise engaging the services of the expanded function dental  
132 assistant, verify that the expanded function dental assistant meets the  
133 requirements described in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) and  
134 subdivisions (1) and (3) of subsection (b) of this section; (2) maintain  
135 documentation verifying that the expanded function dental assistant  
136 meets such requirements on the premises where the expanded function  
137 dental assistant provides services; (3) make such documentation  
138 available to the Department of Public Health upon request; and (4)  
139 provide direct or indirect supervision to not more than two expanded  
140 function dental assistants who are providing services at one time or, if  
141 the dentist's practice is limited to orthodontics, provide direct or indirect  
142 supervision to not more than four expanded function dental assistants  
143 who are providing services at one time.

144 (f) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the State

145 Dental Commission, established pursuant to section 20-103a, may adopt  
146 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to  
147 implement the provisions of this section. Such regulations, if adopted,  
148 shall include, but need not be limited to, identification of the: (1) Specific  
149 types of procedures that may be performed by a dental assistant and an  
150 expanded function dental assistant, consistent with the provisions of  
151 this section; (2) appropriate number of didactic, preclinical and clinical  
152 hours or number of procedures to be evaluated for clinical competency  
153 for each skill employed by an expanded function dental assistant; and  
154 (3) the level of supervision, that may include direct or indirect  
155 supervision, that is required for each procedure to be performed by an  
156 expanded function dental assistant.

157 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
158 "cosmetic injection" means a nonsurgical procedure involving the  
159 injection of a substance, including, but not limited to, botulinum toxin  
160 and dermal filler, to alter or enhance a person's physical appearance.

161 (b) A dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 379 of the general statutes  
162 may administer a cosmetic injection to a patient.

163 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 20-126c of the general statutes is  
164 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
165 *1, 2026*):

166 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a licensee applying  
167 for license renewal shall earn a minimum of twenty-five contact hours  
168 of continuing education within the preceding twenty-four-month  
169 period. Such continuing education shall (1) be in an area of the licensee's  
170 practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet  
171 the health care needs of the public; and (3) include not less than one  
172 contact hour of training or education in (A) any three of the ten  
173 mandatory topics for continuing education activities prescribed by the  
174 commissioner pursuant to this subdivision, which, on and after October  
175 1, 2026, shall include the topic of identifying victims of human

176 trafficking, (B) for registration periods beginning on and after October  
177 1, 2016, infection control in a dental setting, [and] (C) prescribing  
178 controlled substances and pain management, and (D) for registration  
179 periods beginning on and after October 1, 2026, the provision of dental  
180 care to persons with an intellectual or developmental disability. For  
181 registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2011, the  
182 Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Dental  
183 Commission, shall on or before October 1, 2010, and biennially  
184 thereafter, issue a list that includes ten mandatory topics for continuing  
185 education activities that will be required for the following two-year  
186 registration period. Qualifying continuing education activities include,  
187 but are not limited to, courses, including on-line courses, offered or  
188 approved by the American Dental Association or state, district or local  
189 dental associations and societies affiliated with the American Dental  
190 Association; national, state, district or local dental specialty  
191 organizations or the American Academy of General Dentistry; a hospital  
192 or other health care institution; dental schools and other schools of  
193 higher education accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental  
194 Accreditation or a regional accrediting organization; agencies or  
195 businesses whose programs are accredited or recognized by the Council  
196 on Dental Accreditation; local, state or national medical associations; a  
197 state or local health department; or the Accreditation Council for  
198 Graduate Medical Education. Eight hours of volunteer dental practice  
199 at a public health facility, as defined in section 20-126*l*, or a temporary  
200 dental clinic may be substituted for one contact hour of continuing  
201 education, up to a maximum of ten contact hours in one twenty-four-  
202 month period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-112a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-126c(b)

***Statement of Purpose:***

To make various revisions to the statutes concerning dentistry.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*