

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 22-0229.01 Yelana Love x2295

**SENATE BILL 22-219**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF DENTAL THERAPISTS, AND, IN**  
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

On and after January 1, 2023, the bill prohibits a person from practicing dental therapy in the state unless licensed by the Colorado dental board (board). A licensed dental therapist is authorized to deliver routine and preventive dental care.

A person who desires to qualify for practice as a dental therapist must file with the board a written application for a license, proof of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 11, 2022

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 10, 2022

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 2, 2022

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 29, 2022

graduation from a school of dental therapy or a dental therapy program that meets the requirements of the bill, and proof of completion of the examinations required for licensure as a dental hygienist.

A dental therapist is allowed to practice only under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist until the dental therapist practices for 1,000 hours.

After reaching 1,000 hours, the dental therapist may practice under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist pursuant to a written articulated plan. The articulated plan must include:

- Methods of dentist supervision, consultation, and approval;
- Protocols for informed consent, record keeping, quality assurance, and dispensing or administering medications;
- Policies for handling referrals when a patient needs services the dental therapist is not authorized or qualified to provide;
- Policies for handling medical emergencies; and
- Policies for supervising dental assistants and working with dental hygienists and other dental practitioners and staff.

A licensed dental therapist must maintain professional liability insurance in an amount not less than \$500,000 per incident and \$1.5 million annual aggregate per year; except that this requirement is not applicable to a dental therapist who is a public employee under the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act".

A state institution of higher education offering an accredited dental therapy training program may grant advanced standing toward completion of an accredited dental therapy program if a student meets the conditions specified in the bill.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4           (a) Access to affordable, quality, and equitable dental care and to  
5 dental providers has been demonstrated to have a positive impact on  
6 people's overall health outcomes and overall well-being;

7           (b) Although great strides have been made toward increasing  
8 access to affordable dental care, not enough has been accomplished to  
9 address oral-health-access issues across Colorado, particularly in the  
10 state's rural areas, and for Coloradans who have historically and

1 systematically faced barriers to health care, including people of color and  
2 Coloradans with low incomes;

3 (c) According to the "Colorado Health Access Survey" (survey)  
4 by the Colorado Health Institute, roughly one in five Coloradans report  
5 poor oral health;

6 (d) In the survey, 400,000 Coloradans said that at some point in  
7 the past year, they were unable to participate in regular daily activities  
8 like school or work due to dental pain;

9 (e) Fifty-three of Colorado's 64 counties are designated as dental  
10 professional shortage areas, with five counties without a single licensed  
11 dentist;

12 (f) Dentist participation in Medicaid sits at 59.9%, but in 2018,  
13 only 28% of Colorado dentists served any Medicaid-enrolled patients;

14 (g) Adults in rural areas have almost twice the prevalence of tooth  
15 loss when compared to urban adults;

16 (h) By kindergarten, 40% of children in Colorado already have  
17 dental decay, and this rate increases for children living in low-income  
18 communities. Dental health issues continue to be a leading cause of  
19 school absenteeism for Colorado's kids.

20 (i) Research has shown that dental therapists practicing in other  
21 states provide safe and high-quality care, assist in improving access to  
22 dental care, and experience high patient acceptability;

23 (j) A long-term study of dental therapists in the country found that  
24 dental therapists are improving access to care, resulting in both adults and  
25 children getting more preventive care and keeping their natural teeth; and

26 (k) In order to ensure dental care is accessible for all Coloradans,  
27 it is critical that the state establish a license for dental therapists to help

1 close the historic gaps and barriers that Coloradans face in accessing  
2 dental care.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-220-102  
4 as follows:

5 **12-220-102. Legislative declaration.** The practice of dentistry,  
6 DENTAL THERAPY, and dental hygiene in this state is declared to affect the  
7 public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and  
8 control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public  
9 interest and concern that the dental profession merit and receive the  
10 confidence of the public and that only qualified dentists, DENTAL  
11 THERAPISTS, and dental hygienists be permitted to practice dentistry,  
12 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this state. It is the purpose of this  
13 article 220 to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating  
14 the practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, and dental hygiene and to  
15 ensure that no one ~~shall practice~~ PRACTICES dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY,  
16 or dental hygiene without qualifying under this article 220. The  
17 provisions of this article 220 relating to licensure by credentials are not  
18 intended to reduce competition or restrain trade with respect to the oral  
19 health needs of the public. All provisions of this article 220 relating to the  
20 practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, and dental hygiene shall be  
21 liberally construed to carry out these objects and purposes.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-104, **amend**  
23 (1), (3), (13), and (15); and **add** (5.5) as follows:

24 **12-220-104. Definitions - rules.** As used in this article 220, unless  
25 the context otherwise requires:

26 (1) "Accredited" means a program that is nationally recognized for  
27 specialized accrediting for dental, DENTAL THERAPY, dental hygiene, and

1 dental auxiliary programs by the United States department of education.

2 (3) "Dental assistant" means any person, other than a dentist,  
3 DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist, licensed in Colorado, who may  
4 be assigned or delegated to perform dental tasks or procedures as  
5 authorized by this article 220 or by rules of the board.

6 (5.5) "DENTAL THERAPY" MEANS THE DELIVERY OF DENTAL CARE  
7 AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-220-507 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
8 ARTICLE 220 AND RULES PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD.

9 (13) "Proprietor" includes any person who:

10 (a) Employs dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, dental hygienists, or  
11 dental assistants in the operation of a dental office, except as provided in  
12 sections 12-220-305 and 12-220-501;

13 (b) Places in possession of a dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, dental  
14 hygienist, dental assistant, or other agent dental material or equipment  
15 that may be necessary for the management of a dental office on the basis  
16 of a lease or any other agreement for compensation for the use of the  
17 material, equipment, or offices; or

18 (c) Retains the ownership or control of dental equipment or  
19 material or a dental office and makes the same available in any manner  
20 for use by dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, dental hygienists, dental  
21 assistants, or other agents; except that nothing in this subsection (13)(c)  
22 applies to bona fide sales of dental equipment or material secured by a  
23 chattel mortgage or retain-title agreement or to the loan of articulators.

24 (15) "Telehealth supervision" means indirect supervision by a  
25 dentist of a DENTAL THERAPIST OR dental hygienist performing a  
26 statutorily authorized procedure using telecommunications systems.

27 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-220-407.2

1 and 12-220-407.5 as follows:

2 **12-220-407.2. Application for dental therapist license - fee -**  
3 **rules.** (1) EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2023, EVERY PERSON WHO DESIRES TO  
4 QUALIFY FOR PRACTICE AS A DENTAL THERAPIST WITHIN THIS STATE MUST  
5 FILE WITH THE BOARD:

6 (a) A WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE, ON WHICH  
7 APPLICATION THE APPLICANT MUST LIST:

8 (I) ANY ACT OR OMISSION OF THE APPLICANT THAT WOULD BE  
9 GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER SECTION 12-220-201 AGAINST  
10 A LICENSED DENTAL THERAPIST; AND

11 (II) AN EXPLANATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ACT OR  
12 OMISSION; AND

13 (b) SATISFACTORY PROOF THAT THE APPLICANT:

14 (I) GRADUATED FROM A SCHOOL OF DENTAL THERAPY THAT, AT  
15 THE TIME OF THE APPLICANT'S GRADUATION, WAS ACCREDITED BY THE  
16 AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION'S COMMISSION ON DENTAL  
17 ACCREDITATION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION; OR

18 (II) GRADUATED FROM A DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAM  
19 DEVELOPED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 6, 2015, THAT, AT THE TIME OF THE  
20 APPLICANT'S GRADUATION, WAS ACCREDITED BY THE MINNESOTA BOARD  
21 OF DENTISTRY OR CERTIFIED BY THE ALASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE  
22 PROGRAM CERTIFICATION BOARD.

23 (2) THE APPLICANT MUST APPLY FOR A DENTAL THERAPIST LICENSE  
24 ON THE FORM PRESCRIBED AND FURNISHED BY THE BOARD, MUST CERTIFY  
25 THE APPLICATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, AND MUST SUBMIT THE  
26 FEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-105 WITH THE  
27 APPLICATION.

1 (3) AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE WHO HAS NOT GRADUATED  
2 FROM A SCHOOL DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION WITHIN  
3 THE TWELVE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING APPLICATION, OR WHO  
4 HAS NOT ENGAGED EITHER IN THE ACTIVE CLINICAL PRACTICE OF DENTAL  
5 THERAPY OR IN TEACHING DENTAL THERAPY IN AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM  
6 FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR DURING THE FIVE YEARS IMMEDIATELY  
7 PRECEDING THE APPLICATION, MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE BOARD THAT  
8 THE APPLICANT HAS MAINTAINED THE PROFESSIONAL ABILITY AND  
9 KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THIS ARTICLE 220.

10 **12-220-407.5. Dental therapist examinations - license.**

11 (1) EVERY APPLICANT FOR A DENTAL THERAPY LICENSE MUST SUBMIT TO  
12 THE BOARD PROOF THAT THE APPLICANT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A  
13 CLINICAL EXAMINATION FOR DENTAL THERAPY THAT:

14 (a) IS DESIGNED TO TEST THE APPLICANT'S CLINICAL DENTAL  
15 THERAPY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE;

16 (b) INCLUDES DENTAL THERAPY RESTORATIVE AND DENTAL  
17 HYGIENE CLINICAL SKILL EVALUATION; AND

18 (c) IS ADMINISTERED BY A REGIONAL TESTING AGENCY COMPOSED  
19 OF AT LEAST FOUR STATES OR AN EXAMINATION OF ANOTHER STATE.

20 (2) ALL EXAMINATION RESULTS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD MUST BE  
21 FILED WITH THE BOARD AND KEPT FOR REFERENCE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT  
22 LESS THAN TWO YEARS. IF AN APPLICANT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE  
23 EXAMINATIONS AND IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED, THE BOARD SHALL GRANT  
24 A LICENSE TO THE APPLICANT AND SHALL ISSUE A LICENSE CERTIFICATE  
25 SIGNED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

26 (3) FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING THE EXAMINATION  
27 REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, IF THE APPLICANT HAS

1 PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A CLINICAL EXAMINATION FOR  
2 DENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTERED BY A TESTING AGENCY ACCEPTED BY THE  
3 BOARD, THE APPLICANT MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM THAT PART OF THE  
4 DENTAL THERAPY EXAMINATION.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-501, **amend**  
6 (1)(a)(I); and **add** (2.5) as follows:

7 **12-220-501. Tasks authorized to be performed by dental**  
8 **therapists, dental hygienists, or dental assistants - rules.**

9 (1) (a) (I) Except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(II) of this section, the  
10 responsibility for dental diagnosis, dental treatment planning, or the  
11 prescription of therapeutic measures in the practice of dentistry remains  
12 with a licensed dentist and may not be assigned to any DENTAL THERAPIST  
13 OR dental hygienist.

14 (2.5) A DENTAL THERAPIST MAY PERFORM A DENTAL TASK OR  
15 PROCEDURE ASSIGNED TO THE DENTAL THERAPIST BY A LICENSED DENTIST  
16 THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE THE PROFESSIONAL SKILL OF A LICENSED  
17 DENTIST; EXCEPT THAT THE DENTAL THERAPIST MAY PERFORM THE TASK  
18 OR PROCEDURE ONLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION AUTHORIZED UNDER  
19 SECTION 12-220-507.

20 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-220-507 as  
21 follows:

22 **12-220-507. Practice of dental therapy supervision**  
23 **requirement - rules.** (1) (a) A DENTAL THERAPIST MAY PERFORM THE  
24 FOLLOWING TASKS AND PROCEDURES UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF  
25 A LICENSED DENTIST:

26 (I) PREPARE AND PLACE DIRECT RESTORATIONS IN PRIMARY AND  
27 PERMANENT TEETH;



1                   (II) PERFORM BRUSH BIOPSIES;

2                   (III) EXTRACT PERIODONTALLY DISEASED PERMANENT TEETH WITH  
3 MOBILITY OF +3 TO +4, EXCEPT FOR TEETH THAT ARE UNERUPTED,  
4 IMPACTED, FRACTURED, OR REQUIRE SECTIONING;

5                   (IV) EXTRACT PRIMARY TEETH THAT ARE ERUPTED OR NOT  
6 IMPACTED WITH RADIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF ROOTS;

7                   (V) ORAL EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION FOR CONDITIONS AND  
8 SERVICES THAT ARE WITHIN THE DENTAL THERAPIST'S SCOPE OF PRACTICE  
9 AND EDUCATION;

10                  (VI) PLACE TEMPORARY CROWNS;

11                  (VII) PREPARE AND PLACE PREFORMED CROWNS; AND

12                  (VIII) REPAIR DEFECTIVE PROSTHETIC DEVICES.

13                  (b) A DENTAL THERAPIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE  
14 220 WHO HAS COMPLETED ONE THOUSAND HOURS OR MORE UNDER DIRECT  
15 SUPERVISION, OR WHO HAS COMPLETED THE DIRECT SUPERVISION HOURS  
16 REQUIRED UNDER THE WAIVER DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(e) OF THIS  
17 SECTION, MAY PRACTICE THE TASKS AND PROCEDURES IDENTIFIED IN  
18 SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION UNDER THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION OF  
19 A LICENSED DENTIST PURSUANT TO A WRITTEN ARTICULATED PLAN WITH  
20 THE DENTIST THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
21 SECTION.

22                  (c) A DENTAL THERAPIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE  
23 220 MAY PERFORM THE FOLLOWING TASKS UNDER THE INDIRECT  
24 SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF  
25 HOURS THE DENTAL THERAPIST HAS PRACTICED:

26                  (I) REIMPLANTING TEETH;

27                  (II) STABILIZING REIMPLANTED TEETH;

1 (III) EXTRACTING PRIMARY TEETH THAT ARE ERUPTED OR NOT  
2 IMPACTED WITHOUT RADIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF ROOTS;

3 (IV) REMOVING SUTURES;

4 (V) PREPARING DENTAL STUDY CASTS;

5 (VI) ADMINISTERING LOCAL ANESTHESIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
6 SECTION 12-220-411;

7 (VII) DISPENSING AND ADMINISTERING THE FOLLOWING DRUGS  
8 WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF A WRITTEN ARTICULATED PLAN AND WITH  
9 THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SUPERVISING DENTIST: NONNARCOTIC  
10 ANALGESICS, ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES, AND ANTIBIOTICS; AND

11 (VIII) ANY TASK OR PROCEDURE AUTHORIZED TO BE PERFORMED  
12 BY A LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST AS SPECIFIED IN RULES ADOPTED  
13 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 12-220-106 (1)(a)(I), 12-220-501, 12-220-503  
14 (1), 12-220-504 (1), AND 12-220-505.

15 (d) A DENTAL THERAPIST SHALL COMPLETE AT LEAST A MAJORITY  
16 OF THE DIRECT SUPERVISION HOURS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(b)  
17 OR (1)(e) PERFORMING THE TASKS AND PROCEDURES IDENTIFIED IN  
18 SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

19 (e) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SATISFYING THE PRACTICE HOURS  
20 REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
21 BOARD, BY RULE, MAY WAIVE UP TO SIX HUNDRED HOURS OF THE  
22 REQUIRED PRACTICE HOURS. IN PROMULGATING THESE RULES, THE BOARD  
23 SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF YEARS THE DENTAL  
24 THERAPIST HAS PRACTICED AS:

25 (I) A LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST IN COLORADO;

26 (II) A LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST IN ANOTHER STATE; OR

27 (III) A LICENSED DENTAL THERAPIST IN ANOTHER STATE.

1           (2)(a) AN ARTICULATED PLAN BETWEEN A DENTAL THERAPIST AND  
2           A DENTIST MUST INCLUDE:

3           (I) METHODS OF DENTIST SUPERVISION, CONSULTATION, AND  
4           APPROVAL;

5           (II) PROTOCOLS FOR INFORMED CONSENT, RECORD KEEPING,  
6           QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND DISPENSING OR ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS;

7           (III) POLICIES FOR HANDLING REFERRALS WHEN A PATIENT NEEDS  
8           SERVICES THE DENTAL THERAPIST IS NOT AUTHORIZED OR QUALIFIED TO  
9           PROVIDE;

10           (IV) PROTOCOLS FOR ASSESSMENT OF DENTAL DISEASE AND THE  
11           FORMULATION OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN AUTHORIZED BY  
12           THE SUPERVISING DENTIST;

13           (V) POLICIES FOR HANDLING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES; AND

14           (VI) POLICIES FOR SUPERVISING DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND  
15           WORKING WITH DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND OTHER DENTAL PRACTITIONERS  
16           AND STAFF.

17           (b) (I) A DENTIST WHO ENTERS INTO A WRITTEN ARTICULATED  
18           PLAN WITH A DENTAL THERAPIST SHALL ENSURE THAT THE DENTIST, OR  
19           ANOTHER DENTIST, IS AVAILABLE TO THE DENTAL THERAPIST FOR TIMELY  
20           COMMUNICATION DURING THE DENTAL THERAPIST'S PROVISION OF CARE  
21           TO A PATIENT.

22           (II) A DENTAL THERAPIST AND A DENTIST WHO ENTER INTO A  
23           WRITTEN ARTICULATED PLAN SHALL EACH MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL OR  
24           DIGITAL COPY OF THE PLAN.

25           (III) A DENTAL THERAPIST MAY ENTER INTO WRITTEN  
26           ARTICULATED PLANS WITH MORE THAN ONE DENTIST IF EACH  
27           ARTICULATED PLAN INCLUDES THE SAME SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

1 AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

2 (c) A WRITTEN ARTICULATED PLAN MUST BE SIGNED BY THE  
3 DENTIST AND THE DENTAL THERAPIST.

4 (d) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A WRITTEN ARTICULATED  
5 PLAN SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENT OF PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT  
6 FOR INDIRECT SUPERVISION.

7 (3) (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OR (3)(c) OF  
8 THIS SECTION, A DENTIST MAY NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY SUPERVISE MORE  
9 THAN THREE FULL-TIME OR FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT DENTAL THERAPISTS.

10 (b) A DENTIST MAY SUPERVISE AN ADDITIONAL TWO FULL-TIME OR  
11 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT DENTAL THERAPISTS WHO PRACTICE IN A  
12 FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
13 1395x (aa)(4) OR A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
14 1395x (aa)(4).

15 (c) THE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES CREATING A PROCESS  
16 FOR A DENTIST TO SEEK A WAIVER FROM THE SUPERVISION LIMIT SPECIFIED  
17 IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST  
18 SPECIFY THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND WAIVER REQUIREMENTS.

19

20 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-105, **amend**  
21 **(1)(a) and (1)(c); and amend as amended by Senate Bill 22-013 (1)(b)**  
22 **as follows:**

23 **12-220-105. Colorado dental board - qualifications of board**  
24 **members - quorum - panel - rules - review of functions - repeal of**  
25 **article - repeal.** (1) (a) The Colorado dental board is hereby created as  
26 the agency of this state for the regulation of the practice of dentistry,  
27 DENTAL THERAPY, AND DENTAL HYGIENE in this state and to carry out the

1 purposes of this article 220. The board is subject to the supervision and  
2 control of the division as provided by section 12-20-103 (2).

3 (b) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)(II) OF THIS  
4 SECTION, the board consists of seven dentist members, three dental  
5 hygienist members, and three members from the public at large. The  
6 governor shall appoint each member for a term of four years, and each  
7 member must have the qualifications provided in this article 220. A  
8 member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of four years.  
9 Each board member holds office until the member's term expires or until  
10 the governor appoints a successor. THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I) IS  
11 REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2031.

12 (II) (A) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2031, THE BOARD CONSISTS OF SEVEN  
13 DENTIST MEMBERS, TWO DENTAL THERAPIST MEMBERS, TWO DENTAL  
14 HYGIENIST MEMBERS, AND TWO MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.  
15 THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT EACH MEMBER FOR A TERM OF FOUR  
16 YEARS, AND EACH MEMBER MUST HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS PROVIDED  
17 IN THIS ARTICLE 220. A MEMBER SHALL NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO  
18 CONSECUTIVE TERMS OF FOUR YEARS. EACH BOARD MEMBER HOLDS  
19 OFFICE UNTIL THE MEMBER'S TERM EXPIRES OR UNTIL THE GOVERNOR  
20 APPOINTS A SUCCESSOR.

21 (B) A MEMBER SERVING ON THE BOARD AS OF JUNE 30, 2031, MAY  
22 SERVE THE MEMBER'S FULL TERM.

23 ~~(H)~~ (III) A person is qualified to be appointed to the board if the  
24 person:

25 (A) Is a legal resident of Colorado;

26 (B) Is currently licensed as a dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental  
27 hygienist, if fulfilling that position on the board; and


1 (C) Has been actively engaged in a clinical practice in this state  
2 for at least five years immediately preceding the appointment, if fulfilling  
3 the position of dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist on the  
4 board.

5 (c) (I) In making appointments to the board, the governor shall  
6 attempt to create geographical, political, urban, and rural balance among  
7 the board members. If a vacancy occurs in any board membership before  
8 the expiration of the member's term, the governor shall fill the vacancy by  
9 appointment for the remainder of the term in the same manner as in the  
10 case of original appointments.

11 (II) (A) IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS OF DENTAL THERAPISTS TO THE  
12 BOARD, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DIVERSE  
13 WITH REGARD TO RACE, ETHNICITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, INCOME,  
14 WEALTH, AGE, ABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND  
15 GEOGRAPHY.

16 (B) IN CONSIDERING THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF THE  
17 DENTAL THERAPISTS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
18 ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER IS A PERSON OF COLOR.

19 (C) IN CONSIDERING THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE DENTAL  
20 THERAPISTS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ATTEMPT  
21 TO APPOINT MEMBERS FROM BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF THE  
22 STATE.

23   
24 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-106, **amend**  
25 (1)(a)(I) and (1)(f) as follows:

26 **12-220-106. Powers and duties of board - rules - limitation on**  
27 **authority.** (1) The board shall exercise, in accordance with this article

1 220, the following powers and duties:

2 (a) Make, publish, declare, and periodically review reasonable  
3 rules pursuant to section 12-20-204, including rules regarding:

4 (I) The use of lasers for dental, DENTAL THERAPY, and dental  
5 hygiene purposes within defined scopes of practice, subject to appropriate  
6 education and training, and with appropriate supervision, as applicable;

7 (f) In accordance with section 12-220-411, issue anesthesia and  
8 sedation permits to licensed dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, and dental  
9 hygienists and set and collect fees for permit issuance. ~~except that the  
10 board shall only collect fees for local anesthesia permits issued to dental  
11 hygienists on or after July 1, 2014.~~

12 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-201, **amend**  
13 (1)(a), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(j)(I), (1)(j)(II), (1)(k), (1)(o), (1)(q), (1)(r), (1)(v)  
14 introductory portion, (1)(v)(II), (1)(x), (1)(y)(IV), (1)(ee), (1)(ff), and  
15 (1)(gg) as follows:

16 **12-220-201. Grounds for disciplinary action - definition.**

17 (1) The board may take disciplinary action against an applicant or  
18 licensee in accordance with sections 12-20-404 and 12-220-202 for any  
19 of the following causes:

20 (a) Engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in applying  
21 for, securing, renewing, or seeking reinstatement of a license to practice  
22 dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this state, in applying for  
23 professional liability coverage required pursuant to section 12-220-307,  
24 or in taking the examinations provided for in this article 220;

25 (g) Aiding or abetting, in the practice of dentistry, DENTAL  
26 THERAPY, or dental hygiene, a person who is not licensed to practice  
27 dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene under this article 220 or

1 whose license to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
2 is suspended;

3 (h) Except as otherwise provided in sections 12-220-304,  
4 12-220-503 (4), and 25-3-103.7, practicing dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY,  
5 or dental hygiene as a partner, agent, or employee of or in joint venture  
6 with any person who does not hold a license to practice dentistry, DENTAL  
7 THERAPY, or dental hygiene within this state or practicing dentistry,  
8 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene as an employee of or in joint venture  
9 with any partnership, association, or corporation. A licensee holding a  
10 license to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this  
11 state may accept employment from any person, partnership, association,  
12 or corporation to examine, prescribe, and treat the employees of the  
13 person, partnership, association, or corporation.

14 (j) (I) Failing to notify the board, as required by section 12-30-108  
15 (1), of a physical illness, physical condition, or behavioral health, mental  
16 health, or substance use disorder that renders the licensee unable, or limits  
17 the licensee's ability, to perform dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental  
18 hygiene services with reasonable skill and with safety to the patient;

19 (II) Failing to act within the limitations created by a physical  
20 illness, physical condition, or behavioral health, mental health, or  
21 substance use disorder that renders the licensee unable to ~~practice~~  
22 PERFORM dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene services with  
23 reasonable skill and safety or that may endanger the health or safety of  
24 persons under ~~his or her~~ THE LICENSEE'S care; or

25 (k) Committing an act or omission that constitutes grossly  
26 negligent dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene practice or that fails  
27 to meet generally accepted standards of dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or



1 dental hygiene practice;

2 (o) False billing in the delivery of dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or  
3 dental hygiene services, including ~~but not limited to~~, performing one  
4 service and billing for another, billing for any service not rendered, or  
5 committing a fraudulent insurance act, as defined in section 10-1-128;

6 (q) Failing to notify the board, in writing and within ninety days  
7 after a judgment is entered, of a final judgment by a court of competent  
8 jurisdiction in favor of any party and against the licensee involving  
9 negligent malpractice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene,  
10 which notice must contain the name of the court, the case number, and the  
11 names of all parties to the action;

12 (r) Failing to report a dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
13 malpractice judgment or malpractice settlement to the board by the  
14 licensee within ninety days;

15 (v) Sharing any professional fees with anyone except those with  
16 whom the dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist is lawfully  
17 associated in the practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental  
18 hygiene; except that:

19 (II) Nothing in this section prohibits a dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST,  
20 or dental hygienist practice owned or operated by a proprietor authorized  
21 under section 12-220-303 from contracting with any person or entity for  
22 business management services or paying a royalty in accordance with a  
23 franchise agreement if the terms of the contract or franchise agreement do  
24 not affect the exercise of the independent professional judgment of the  
25 dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist.

26 (x) Failure of a DENTAL THERAPIST OR dental hygienist to  
27 recommend that a patient be examined by a dentist or to refer a patient to

1 a dentist when the DENTAL THERAPIST OR dental hygienist detects a  
2 condition that requires care beyond the scope of practicing DENTAL  
3 THERAPY OR supervised or unsupervised dental hygiene;

4 (y) Engaging in any of the following activities and practices:

5 (IV) Ordering or performing, without clinical justification, any  
6 service, X ray, or treatment that is contrary to recognized standards of the  
7 practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene, as interpreted  
8 by the board;

9 (ee) Failing to provide adequate or proper supervision when  
10 employing unlicensed persons in a dental or dental hygiene practice OF  
11 UNLICENSED PERSONS IN DENTAL, DENTAL THERAPY, OR DENTAL HYGIENE  
12 PRACTICE;

13 (ff) Engaging in any conduct that constitutes a crime as defined  
14 in title 18, which conduct relates to the licensee's practice as a dentist,  
15 DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist;

16 (gg) Practicing outside the scope of dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or  
17 dental hygiene practice;

18 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-202, **amend**  
19 (1)(a)(II), (3) introductory portion, (4), and (5)(a) as follows:

20 **12-220-202. Disciplinary actions - rules.** (1) (a) If, after notice  
21 and hearing conducted in accordance with article 4 of title 24 and section  
22 12-20-403, the board determines that an applicant or licensee has engaged  
23 in an act specified in section 12-220-201, the board may:

24 (II) Reprimand, censure, or, in accordance with section 12-20-404  
25 (1)(b), place on probation any licensed dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or  
26 dental hygienist;

27 (3) The board may include, in any disciplinary order that allows

1 a dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist to continue to practice,  
2 conditions the board deems appropriate to assure that the dentist, DENTAL  
3 THERAPIST, or dental hygienist is physically, mentally, and otherwise  
4 qualified to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in  
5 accordance with generally accepted professional standards of practice.  
6 The order may include any or all of the following:

7 (4) The board may suspend the license of a dentist, DENTAL  
8 THERAPIST, or dental hygienist who fails to comply with an order of the  
9 board issued in accordance with this section. The board may impose the  
10 license suspension until the licensee complies with the board's order.

11 (5) (a) In addition to any other penalty permitted under this article  
12 220, when a licensed dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist  
13 violates a provision of this article 220 or of any rule promulgated  
14 pursuant to this article 220, the board may impose a fine on the licensee.  
15 If the licensee is a dentist, the fine must not exceed five thousand dollars.  
16 IF THE LICENSEE IS A DENTAL THERAPIST, THE FINE MUST NOT EXCEED  
17 FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS. If the licensee is a dental hygienist, the fine  
18 must not exceed three thousand dollars.

19 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-203, **amend**  
20 (1)(a) as follows:

21 **12-220-203. Disciplinary proceedings.** (1) (a) Any person may  
22 submit a complaint relating to the conduct of a dentist, DENTAL  
23 THERAPIST, or dental hygienist, which complaint must be in writing and  
24 signed by the person. The board, on its own motion, may initiate a  
25 complaint. The board shall notify the dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or  
26 dental hygienist of the complaint against the dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST,  
27 or dental hygienist.

1           **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-206, **amend**  
2 (1) and (2) introductory portion as follows:

3           **12-220-206. Mental and physical examinations.** (1) (a) If the  
4 board has reasonable cause to believe that a person licensed to practice  
5 dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this state is unable to  
6 practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene with reasonable  
7 skill and safety to patients because of a physical or mental disability or  
8 because of excessive use of alcohol, a habit-forming drug or substance,  
9 or a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), the board  
10 may require the licensed dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist  
11 to submit to a mental or physical examination by a qualified professional  
12 designated by the board.

13           (b) Upon the failure of the licensed dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST,  
14 or dental hygienist to submit to a mental or physical examination required  
15 by the board, unless the failure is due to circumstances beyond the  
16 dentist's, DENTAL THERAPIST'S, or dental hygienist's control, the board  
17 may suspend the dentist's, DENTAL THERAPIST'S, or dental hygienist's  
18 license to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this  
19 state until the dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist submits to  
20 the examination.

21           (2) Every person licensed to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY,  
22 or dental hygiene in this state is deemed, by so practicing or by applying  
23 for a renewal of the person's license to practice dentistry, DENTAL  
24 THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this state, to have:

25           **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-208, **amend**  
26 (2) as follows:

27           **12-220-208. Review of board action.** (2) The provisions of this

1 section apply to a license issued to a dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental  
2 hygienist.

3 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-210, **amend**  
4 (1)(a)(I), (2) introductory portion, and (2)(a) as follows:

5 **12-220-210. Use or sale of forged or invalid diploma, license,**  
6 **license renewal certificate, or identification.** (1) (a) It is unlawful for  
7 any person to use or attempt to use:

8 (I) As the person's own, a diploma from a dental college or school  
9 or school of DENTAL THERAPY OR dental hygiene, or a license or license  
10 renewal certificate, that was issued or granted to another person; or

11 (2) It is unlawful to sell or offer to sell a diploma conferring a  
12 dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene degree or a license or license  
13 renewal certificate granted pursuant to this article 220 or prior dental  
14 practice laws, or to procure such diploma or license or license renewal  
15 certificate:

16 (a) With the intent that it be used as evidence of the right to  
17 practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene by a person other  
18 than the one upon whom it was conferred or to whom the license or  
19 license renewal certificate was granted; or

20 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-220-211  
21 as follows:

22 **12-220-211. Unauthorized practice - penalties.** Any person who  
23 practices or offers or attempts to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or  
24 dental hygiene without an active license issued under this article 220 is  
25 subject to penalties pursuant to section 12-20-407 (1)(a).

26 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-301, **amend**  
27 (1) introductory portion and (1)(a) as follows:

1           **12-220-301. Persons entitled to practice dentistry, dental**  
2 **therapy, or dental hygiene.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to practice  
3 dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene in this state except those:  
4           (a) Who are duly licensed as dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, or  
5 dental hygienists pursuant to this article 220;

6           **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-302, **amend**  
7 (1)(c), (1)(e), (1)(f), (1)(i), and (1)(j) as follows:

8           **12-220-302. Persons exempt from operation of this article.**  
9 (1) This article 220 does not apply to the following practices, acts, and  
10 operations:

11           (c) The practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
12 in the discharge of their official duties by graduate dentists, ~~or~~ dental  
13 surgeons, DENTAL THERAPISTS, or dental hygienists in the United States  
14 armed forces, public health service, Coast Guard, or veterans  
15 administration;

16           (e) The practice of DENTAL THERAPY OR dental hygiene by  
17 instructors and students or the practice of dentistry by students or  
18 residents in schools or colleges of dentistry, schools of DENTAL THERAPY,  
19 SCHOOLS OF dental hygiene, or schools of dental assistant education while  
20 the instructors, students, or residents are participating in accredited  
21 programs of the schools or colleges;

22           (f) The practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
23 by dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, or dental hygienists licensed in good  
24 standing by other states or countries while appearing in programs of  
25 dental education or research at the invitation of any group of licensed  
26 dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, or dental hygienists in this state who are in  
27 good standing, so long as the practice is limited to five consecutive days

1 in a twelve-month period and the name of each person engaging in the  
2 practice is submitted to the board, in writing and on a form approved by  
3 the board, at least ten days before the person performs the practice;

4 (i) The practicing of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental  
5 hygiene by an examiner representing a testing agency approved by the  
6 board, during the administration of an examination; or

7 (j) The practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
8 by dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, or dental hygienists licensed in good  
9 standing by other states while providing care as a volunteer, at the  
10 invitation of any group of licensed dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, or  
11 dental hygienists in this state who are in good standing, so long as the  
12 practice is limited to five consecutive days in a twelve-month period and  
13 the name of each person engaging in the practice is submitted to the  
14 board, in writing and on a form approved by the board, at least ten days  
15 before the person performs the practice.

16 **SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-220-304  
17 as follows:

18 **12-220-304. Names and status under which dental practice**  
19 **may be conducted.** (1) The conduct of the practice of dentistry, DENTAL  
20 THERAPY, or dental hygiene in a corporate capacity is prohibited, but the  
21 prohibition shall not be construed to prevent the practice of dentistry,  
22 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene by a professional service corporation  
23 of licensees so constituted that they may be treated under the federal  
24 internal revenue laws as a corporation for tax purposes only. ~~Any such~~ A  
25 professional service corporation may exercise ~~such~~ THE powers and shall  
26 be subject to such limitations and requirements, insofar as applicable, as  
27 are provided in section 12-240-138, relating to professional service

1 corporations for the practice of medicine.

2 (2) The group practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental  
3 hygiene is permitted.

4 (3) The practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
5 by a limited liability company of licensees or by a limited liability  
6 partnership of licensees is permitted subject to the limitations and  
7 requirements, insofar as are applicable, set forth in section 12-240-138,  
8 relating to a limited liability company or limited liability partnership for  
9 the practice of medicine.

10 **SECTION 19.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-305, **amend**  
11 (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(j), (1)(k), (1)(m), (1)(n), (1)(p), and (1)(r) as  
12 follows:

13 **12-220-305. What constitutes practicing dentistry - authority**  
14 **to electronically prescribe.** (1) A person is practicing dentistry if the  
15 person:

16 (a) Performs, or attempts or professes to perform, any dental  
17 operation, oral surgery, or dental diagnostic or therapeutic services of any  
18 kind; except that nothing in this subsection (1)(a) prohibits a DENTAL  
19 THERAPIST, dental hygienist, or dental assistant from providing preventive  
20 dental or nutritional counseling, education, or instruction services;

21 (b) Is a proprietor of a place where dental operation, oral surgery,  
22 or dental diagnostic or therapeutic services are performed; except that  
23 nothing in this subsection (1)(b) prohibits a DENTAL THERAPIST, dental  
24 hygienist, or dental assistant from performing those tasks and procedures  
25 consistent with section 12-220-501;

26 (c) Directly or indirectly, by any means or method, takes  
27 impression of the human tooth, teeth, jaws, maxillofacial area, or adjacent



1 and associated structures; performs any phase of any operation incident  
2 to the replacement of a part of a tooth; or supplies artificial substitutes for  
3 the natural teeth, jaws, or adjacent and associated structures; except that  
4 nothing in this subsection (1)(c) prohibits a DENTAL THERAPIST, dental  
5 hygienist, or dental assistant from performing tasks and procedures  
6 consistent with sections 12-220-501 (3)(b)(III), and 12-220-503 (1)(d),  
7 AND 12-220-507;

8 (j) Extracts, or attempts to extract, human teeth or corrects, or  
9 attempts to correct, malformations of human teeth or jaws; EXCEPT THAT  
10 THIS SUBSECTION (1)(j) DOES NOT PROHIBIT A DENTAL THERAPIST FROM  
11 PERFORMING TASKS AND PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH SECTION  
12 12-220-507;

13 (k) Repairs or fills cavities in human teeth; EXCEPT THAT THIS  
14 SUBSECTION (1)(k) DOES NOT PROHIBIT A DENTAL THERAPIST FROM  
15 PERFORMING TASKS AND PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH SECTION  
16 12-220-507;

17 (m) Gives, or professes to give, interpretations or readings of  
18 dental X rays or roentgenograms, CT scans, or other diagnostic  
19 methodologies; except that nothing in this subsection (1)(m) prohibits a  
20 dental hygienist from performing tasks and procedures consistent with  
21 sections 12-220-503 and 12-220-504 OR A DENTAL THERAPIST FROM  
22 PERFORMING TASKS CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 12-220-507;

23 (n) Represents himself or herself to an individual or the general  
24 public as practicing dentistry, by using the words "dentist" or "dental  
25 surgeon", or by using the letters "D.D.S.", "D.M.D.", "D.D.S./M.D.", or  
26 "D.M.D./M.D." Nothing in this subsection (1)(n) prohibits a DENTAL  
27 THERAPIST, dental hygienist, or dental assistant from performing tasks and

1 procedures consistent with section 12-220-501 (2), **(2.5)**, or (3)(b).

2 (p) Prescribes drugs or medications and administers local  
3 anesthesia, analgesia including nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation,  
4 medication prescribed or administered for the relief of anxiety or  
5 apprehension, minimal sedation, moderate sedation, deep sedation, or  
6 general anesthesia as necessary for the proper practice of dentistry; except  
7 that nothing in this subsection (1)(p) prohibits:

8 (I) A dental hygienist from performing those tasks and procedures  
9 consistent with sections 12-220-501, 12-220-503 (1)(e) and (1)(g), and  
10 12-220-504 (1)(c), and in accordance with rules promulgated by the  
11 board; OR

12 (II) A DENTAL THERAPIST FROM PERFORMING THOSE TASKS AND  
13 PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH SECTIONS 12-220-501 (2.5) AND  
14 12-220-507, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES PROMULGATED BY THE  
15 BOARD.

16 (r) Gives or professes to give interpretations or readings of dental  
17 charts or records or gives treatment plans or interpretations of treatment  
18 plans derived from examinations, patient records, dental X rays, or  
19 roentgenograms; except that nothing in this subsection (1)(r) prohibits a  
20 DENTAL THERAPIST, dental hygienist, or dental assistant from performing  
21 tasks and procedures consistent with sections 12-220-501 (2), **(2.5)**, and  
22 (3), 12-220-503, ~~and~~ 12-220-504, AND 12-220-507.

23 **SECTION 20.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-220-307  
24 as follows:

25 **12-220-307. Professional liability insurance required - rules.**

26 (1) A licensed dentist, A LICENSED DENTAL THERAPIST, and a licensed  
27 dental hygienist must meet the financial responsibility requirements

1 established by the board pursuant to section 13-64-301 (1)(a).

2 (2) Upon request of the board, a licensed dentist, LICENSED  
3 DENTAL THERAPIST, or licensed dental hygienist shall provide proof of  
4 professional liability insurance to the board.

5 (3) The board may, by rule, exempt from or establish lesser  
6 financial responsibility standards for licensed dentists, LICENSED DENTAL  
7 THERAPISTS, and licensed dental hygienists who meet the criteria in  
8 section 13-64-301 (1)(a)(II).

9 **SECTION 21.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-220-308  
10 as follows:

11 **12-220-308. Continuing education requirements - rules.** (1) As  
12 a condition of renewing, reactivating, or reinstating a license issued under  
13 this article 220, every dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, and dental hygienist  
14 must obtain at least thirty hours of continuing education every two years  
15 to ensure patient safety and professional competency.

16 (2) The board may adopt rules establishing the basic requirements  
17 for continuing education, including the types of programs that qualify,  
18 exemptions for persons holding an inactive or retired license,  
19 requirements for courses designed to enhance clinical skills for certain  
20 licenses, and the manner by which dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, and  
21 dental hygienists are to report compliance with the continuing education  
22 requirements.

23 **SECTION 22.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-409, **amend**  
24 (1), (2)(a), and (5) as follows:

25 **12-220-409. Inactive dental, dental therapist, or dental**  
26 **hygienist license.** (1) Any person licensed to practice dentistry, DENTAL  
27 THERAPY, or dental hygiene pursuant to this article 220 may apply to the

1 board to be transferred to an inactive status. The licensee must submit an  
2 application in the form and manner designated by the board. The board  
3 may grant inactive status by issuing an inactive license or deny the  
4 application for any of the causes set forth in section 12-220-201.

5 (2) Any person applying for a license under this section must:

6 (a) Provide an affidavit to the board that the applicant, after a date  
7 certain, will not practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
8 in this state unless the applicant is issued a license to practice dentistry,  
9 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene pursuant to subsection (5) of this  
10 section;

11 (5) Any person licensed under this section who wishes to resume  
12 the practice of dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene must file an  
13 application in the form and manner the board designates, pay the license  
14 fee promulgated by the board pursuant to section 12-20-105, and meet the  
15 financial responsibility requirements or the professional liability  
16 insurance requirements established by the board pursuant to sections  
17 12-220-307 and 13-64-301 (1)(a), as applicable. The board may approve  
18 the application and issue a license to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY,  
19 or dental hygiene or may deny the application for any of the causes set  
20 forth in section 12-220-201.

21 **SECTION 23.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-410, **amend**  
22 (1), (2)(a), (5), and (6) as follows:

23 **12-220-410. Retired dental, dental therapist, and dental**  
24 **hygienist licenses.** (1) Any person licensed to practice dentistry, DENTAL  
25 THERAPY, or dental hygiene pursuant to this article 220 may apply to the  
26 board for retired licensure status. The application must be in the form and  
27 manner designated by the board. The board may grant retired licensure

1 status by issuing a retired license, or it may deny the application if the  
2 licensee has been disciplined for any of the causes set forth in section  
3 12-220-201.

4 (2) Any person applying for a license under this section must:

5 (a) Provide an affidavit to the board stating that, after a date  
6 certain, the applicant will not practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or  
7 dental hygiene; will no longer earn income as a dentist, DENTAL  
8 THERAPIST, or dental hygiene administrator or consultant; and will not  
9 perform any activity that constitutes practicing dentistry, DENTAL  
10 THERAPY, or dental hygiene pursuant to sections 12-220-305, **12-220-501**,  
11 **12-220-503**, and **12-220-504**, AND **12-220-507** unless the applicant is  
12 issued a license to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
13 pursuant to subsection (5) of this section; and

14 (5) Any person licensed under this section may apply to the board  
15 for a return to active licensure status by filing an application in the form  
16 and manner the board designates, paying the appropriate license fee  
17 established pursuant to section 12-20-105, and meeting the financial  
18 responsibility requirements or the professional liability insurance  
19 requirements established by the board pursuant to sections 12-220-307  
20 and 13-64-301 (1)(a), as applicable. The board may approve the  
21 application and issue a license to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or  
22 dental hygiene or may deny the application if the licensee has been  
23 disciplined for any of the causes set forth in section 12-220-201.

24 (6) A dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist on retired  
25 status may provide dental, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene services  
26 on a voluntary basis to ~~the~~ PEOPLE WHO ARE indigent if the retired dentist,  
27 DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist provides the services on a limited

1 basis and does not charge a fee for the services. A retired dentist, DENTAL  
2 THERAPIST, or dental hygienist providing voluntary care pursuant to this  
3 subsection (6) is immune from any liability resulting from the voluntary  
4 care the retired dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist provided.

5 **SECTION 24.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-411, **amend**  
6 (1), (3), and (4)(a); and **add** (6) as follows:

7 **12-220-411. Anesthesia and sedation permits - dentists, dental**  
8 **therapists, and dental hygienists - training and experience**  
9 **requirements - office inspections - rules.** (1) Upon application in a  
10 form and manner determined by the board and payment of the applicable  
11 fees established by the board, the board may issue an anesthesia or  
12 sedation permit to a licensed dentist or a local anesthesia permit to a  
13 DENTAL THERAPIST OR dental hygienist in accordance with this section.

14 (3) (a) A licensed DENTAL THERAPIST OR dental hygienist who  
15 obtains a local anesthesia permit pursuant to this section may administer  
16 local anesthesia.

17 (b) A local anesthesia permit issued to a DENTAL THERAPIST OR  
18 dental hygienist is valid as long as the DENTAL THERAPIST'S OR dental  
19 hygienist's license is active.

20 (4) (a) The board shall establish, by rule, minimum training,  
21 experience, and equipment requirements for the administration of local  
22 anesthesia, analgesia including nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation, and  
23 medication prescribed or administered for the relief of anxiety or  
24 apprehension, minimal sedation, moderate sedation, deep sedation, or  
25 general anesthesia, including procedures that may be used by and  
26 minimum training requirements for dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, dental  
27 hygienists, and dental assistants.

1           (6) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A DENTAL THERAPIST  
2 WHO PERFORMS A TASK PURSUANT TO A WRITTEN ARTICULATED PLAN  
3 THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 12-220-507 (2) IS  
4 CONSIDERED TO HAVE PERFORMED THE TASK WITH THE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE  
5 AND CONSENT OF THE DENTIST.

6           **SECTION 25.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-601, **amend**  
7 (1) and (2) as follows:

8           **12-220-601. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
9 hereby finds, determines, and declares that public exposure to the hazards  
10 of ionizing radiation used for diagnostic purposes should be minimized  
11 wherever possible. Accordingly, the general assembly finds, determines,  
12 and declares that for any dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist  
13 to allow an untrained person to operate a machine source of ionizing  
14 radiation, including without limitation a device commonly known as an  
15 "X-ray machine", or to administer radiation to a patient for diagnostic  
16 purposes is a threat to the public health and safety.

17           (2) It is the intent of the general assembly that dentists, DENTAL  
18 THERAPISTS, and dental hygienists utilizing unlicensed persons in their  
19 practices provide those persons with a minimum level of education and  
20 training before allowing them to operate machine sources of ionizing  
21 radiation; however, it is not the general assembly's intent to discourage  
22 education and training beyond this minimum. It is further the intent of the  
23 general assembly that established minimum training and education  
24 requirements correspond as closely as possible to the requirements of  
25 each particular work setting as determined by the board pursuant to this  
26 part 6.

27           **SECTION 26.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-220-602, **amend**

1 (1) and (2) as follows:

2 **12-220-602. Minimum standards - rules - definition.**

3 (1)(a) The board shall adopt rules prescribing minimum standards for the  
4 qualifications, education, and training of unlicensed persons operating  
5 machine sources of ionizing radiation and administering radiation to  
6 patients for diagnostic medical use. A licensed dentist, DENTAL  
7 THERAPIST, or dental hygienist shall not allow an unlicensed person to  
8 operate a machine source of ionizing radiation or to administer radiation  
9 to any patient unless the person meets standards then in effect under rules  
10 adopted pursuant to this section. The board may adopt rules allowing a  
11 grace period in which newly hired operators of machine sources of  
12 ionizing radiation are to receive the training required by this section.

13 (b) ~~For purposes of AS USED IN~~ this part 6, "unlicensed person"  
14 means a person who does not hold a current and active license entitling  
15 the person to practice dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene  
16 under this article 220.

17 (2) The board shall seek the assistance of licensed dentists,  
18 DENTAL THERAPISTS, or ~~licensed~~ dental hygienists in developing and  
19 formulating the rules promulgated pursuant to this section.

20 **SECTION 27.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-202, **add**  
21 (3)(e)(IX.5) as follows:

22 **12-20-202. Licenses, certifications, and registrations - renewal**  
23 **- reinstatement - fees - occupational credential portability program**  
24 **- temporary authority for military spouses - exceptions for military**  
25 **personnel - rules - consideration of criminal convictions or driver's**  
26 **history - executive director authority - definitions. (3) Occupational**  
27 **credential portability program. (e) Subsections (3)(a) to (3)(d) of this**



1 section do not apply to the following professions or occupations:

2 (IX.5) DENTAL THERAPISTS, REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
3 220 OF THIS TITLE 12;

4 **SECTION 28.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-406, **amend**  
5 (3)(f) as follows:

6 **12-20-406. Injunctive relief.** (3) This section does not apply to  
7 the following:

8 (f) Article 220 of this title 12 concerning dentists, DENTAL  
9 THERAPISTS, and dental hygienists;

10 **SECTION 29.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-407, **amend**  
11 (1)(a)(V)(J) as follows:

12 **12-20-407. Unauthorized practice of profession or occupation**  
13 **- penalties - exclusions.** (1) (a) A person commits a class 2 misdemeanor  
14 and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501 if the person:

15 (V) Practices or offers or attempts to practice any of the following  
16 professions or occupations without an active license, certification, or  
17 registration issued under the part or article of this title 12 governing the  
18 particular profession or occupation:

19 (J) Dentistry, DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene, as regulated  
20 under article 220 of this title 12;

21 **SECTION 30.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-102, **amend**  
22 (3)(a)(VII) as follows:

23 **12-30-102. Medical transparency act of 2010 - disclosure of**  
24 **information about health-care providers - fines - rules - short title -**  
25 **legislative declaration - review of functions - repeal.** (3) (a) As used  
26 in this section, "applicant" means a person applying for a new, active  
27 license, certification, or registration or to renew, reinstate, or reactivate

1 an active license, certification, or registration to practice:

2 (VII) Dental THERAPY OR DENTAL hygiene pursuant to article 220  
3 of this title 12;

4 **SECTION 31.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-103, **amend**  
5 (4)(a)(IV) as follows:

6 **12-30-103. Solicitation of accident victims - waiting period -**  
7 **definitions.** (4) As used in this section:

8 (a) "Health-care practitioner" means:

9 (IV) A dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist licensed  
10 under article 220 of this title 12;

11 **SECTION 32.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-4-102, **amend**  
12 (1)(g) and (2)(g) as follows:

13 **13-4-102. Jurisdiction.** (1) Any provision of law to the contrary  
14 notwithstanding, the court of appeals shall have initial jurisdiction over  
15 appeals from final judgments of, and interlocutory appeals of certified  
16 questions of law in civil cases pursuant to section 13-4-102.1 from, the  
17 district courts, the probate court of the city and county of Denver, and the  
18 juvenile court of the city and county of Denver, except in:

19 (g) Review actions of the Colorado dental board in refusing to  
20 issue or renew or in suspending or revoking a license to practice dentistry,  
21 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene, as provided in section 12-220-208;

22 (2) The court of appeals has initial jurisdiction to:

23 (g) Review actions of the Colorado dental board in refusing to  
24 issue or renew or in suspending or revoking a license to practice dentistry,  
25 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene, as provided in ~~section 12-220-137~~  
26 SECTION 12-220-208;

27 **SECTION 33.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-21-115.5,

1 **amend** (3)(c)(II)(R) as follows:

2 **13-21-115.5. Volunteer service act - immunity - exception for**  
3 **operation of motor vehicles - short title - legislative declaration -**  
4 **definitions.** (3) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
5 requires:

6 (c) (II) "Volunteer" includes:

7 (R) A licensed dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist  
8 governed by article 220 of title 12 performing the practice of dentistry,  
9 DENTAL THERAPY, or dental hygiene, as defined in section 12-220-104  
10 and as described in ~~section~~ SECTIONS 12-220-305, **12-220-402,**  
11 **12-220-403,** AND **12-220-507**; as a volunteer for a nonprofit organization,  
12 nonprofit corporation, governmental entity, or hospital; or a dentist,  
13 DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist who holds a license in good  
14 standing from another state performing the practice of dentistry, DENTAL  
15 THERAPY, or dental hygiene, as defined in section 12-220-104 and as  
16 described in ~~section~~ SECTIONS 12-220-305, **12-220-402, 12-220-403,** AND  
17 **12-220-507,** as a volunteer for a nonprofit organization, nonprofit  
18 corporation, governmental entity, or hospital pursuant to section  
19 12-220-302 (1)(j); and

20 **SECTION 34.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-64-301, **amend**  
21 (1) introductory portion, (1)(a)(I), (1)(a)(II) introductory portion,  
22 (1)(a)(III), and (1)(a)(IV) as follows:

23 **13-64-301. Financial responsibility.** (1) As a condition of active  
24 licensure or authority to practice in this state, every physician, dentist,  
25 DENTAL THERAPIST, or dental hygienist; every physician assistant who has  
26 been practicing for at least three years; and every health-care institution  
27 as defined in section 13-64-202, except as provided in section

1 13-64-303.5, that provides health-care services shall establish financial  
2 responsibility, as follows:

3 (a) (I) (A) If a dentist, by maintaining commercial professional  
4 liability insurance coverage with an insurance company authorized to do  
5 business in this state or an eligible nonadmitted insurer allowed to insure  
6 in Colorado pursuant to article 5 of title 10, ~~C.R.S.~~, in a minimum  
7 indemnity amount of five hundred thousand dollars per incident and one  
8 million five hundred thousand dollars annual aggregate per year; except  
9 that this requirement is not applicable to a dentist who is a public  
10 employee under the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act", article 10  
11 of title 24. ~~C.R.S.~~

12 (B) A licensed dental hygienist must ~~have~~ MAINTAIN professional  
13 liability insurance in an amount not less than fifty thousand dollars per  
14 claim and with an aggregate liability limit for all claims during a calendar  
15 year of not less than three hundred thousand dollars; except that this  
16 requirement does not apply to a licensed dental hygienist who is a public  
17 employee under the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act", article 10  
18 of title 24. ~~C.R.S.~~

19 (C) A LICENSED DENTAL THERAPIST MUST MAINTAIN  
20 PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN FIVE  
21 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER INCIDENT AND ONE MILLION FIVE  
22 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUAL AGGREGATE PER YEAR; EXCEPT  
23 THAT THIS REQUIREMENT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO A DENTAL THERAPIST  
24 WHO IS A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNDER THE "COLORADO GOVERNMENTAL  
25 IMMUNITY ACT", ARTICLE 10 OF TITLE 24.

26 (II) The Colorado dental board, by rule, may exempt from or  
27 establish lesser financial responsibility standards than those prescribed in

1 this section for classes of LICENSED dentists, ~~and licensed~~ DENTAL  
2 THERAPISTS, AND dental hygienists who:

3 (III) The Colorado dental board may exempt from or establish  
4 lesser financial responsibility standards for a LICENSED dentist, DENTAL  
5 THERAPIST, or ~~licensed~~ dental hygienist for reasons other than those  
6 described in ~~subparagraph (H) of this paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II)  
7 OF THIS SECTION that render the limits provided in ~~subparagraph (I) of this~~  
8 ~~paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION unreasonable or  
9 unattainable.

10 (IV) Nothing in this ~~paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a) shall  
11 preclude or otherwise prohibit a licensed dentist, DENTAL THERAPIST, or  
12 ~~licensed~~ dental hygienist from rendering appropriate patient care on an  
13 occasional basis when the circumstances surrounding the need for care so  
14 warrant.

15 **SECTION 35.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-304, **amend**  
16 (2)(o) as follows:

17 **19-3-304. Persons required to report child abuse or neglect.**  
18 (2) Persons required to report such abuse or neglect or circumstances or  
19 conditions include any:

20 (o) Dental THERAPIST OR DENTAL hygienist;

21 **SECTION 36.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-148 as  
22 follows:

23 **23-5-148. Dental therapy training programs - authorization to**  
24 **grant advanced standing - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
25 "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS  
26 SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a).

27 (2) A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OFFERING AN

1 ACCREDITED DENTAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM MAY GRANT  
2 ADVANCED STANDING TOWARD COMPLETION OF AN ACCREDITED DENTAL  
3 THERAPY PROGRAM IF A STUDENT DEMONSTRATES PAST COMPLETION OF  
4 CURRICULUM THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE CONTENT STANDARDS FOR  
5 ONE OR MORE COURSES THAT COMPRISE THE DENTAL THERAPY  
6 CURRICULUM ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION'S  
7 COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR  
8 ORGANIZATION.

9 **SECTION 37.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1-108.7, **amend**  
10 (3)(f) as follows:

11 **25-1-108.7. Health care credentials uniform application act -**  
12 **legislative declaration - definitions - state board of health rules.**

13 (3) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

14 (f) "Health-care professional" means a physician, dentist, DENTAL  
15 THERAPIST, dental hygienist, chiropractor, podiatrist, psychologist,  
16 advanced practice REGISTERED nurse, optometrist, physician assistant,  
17 licensed clinical social worker, child health associate, marriage and  
18 family therapist, or other health-care professional who is registered,  
19 certified, or licensed pursuant to title 12; ~~C.R.S.~~; who is subject to  
20 credentialing; and who practices, or intends to practice, in Colorado.

21 **SECTION 38.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1-1202, **amend**  
22 (1)(k) as follows:

23 **25-1-1202. Index of statutory sections regarding medical**  
24 **record confidentiality and health information.** (1) Statutory provisions  
25 concerning policies, procedures, and references to the release, sharing,  
26 and use of medical records and health information include the following:

27 (k) Section 12-220-201, concerning disciplinary actions against

1 dentists, DENTAL THERAPISTS, and dental hygienists;

2 SECTION 39. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 25.5-4-411  
3 as follows:

4 25.5-4-411. Authorization of services provided by dental  
5 hygienists. (1) When dental hygiene services are provided to children by  
6 a licensed dental hygienist OR DENTAL THERAPIST who is providing dental  
7 hygiene services pursuant to section 12-220-503 without the supervision  
8 of a licensed dentist, the executive director of the state department shall  
9 authorize reimbursement for said services, subject to the requirements of  
10 this section. Payment for the services shall be made directly to the  
11 licensed dental hygienist OR DENTAL THERAPIST, if requested by the  
12 licensed dental hygienist OR DENTAL THERAPIST; except that this section  
13 shall DOES not apply to licensed dental hygienists OR DENTAL THERAPISTS  
14 when acting within the scope of their employment as salaried employees  
15 of public or private institutions, physicians, or dentists.

16 (2) For each child provided dental hygiene services pursuant to  
17 this section, the dental hygienist OR DENTAL THERAPIST shall attempt to  
18 identify a dentist participating in medicaid for the child.

19 SECTION 40. Appropriation. (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal  
20 year, \$14,786 is appropriated to the department of regulatory agencies.  
21 This appropriation is from the division of professions and occupations  
22 cash fund created in section 12-20-105 (3), C.R.S. To implement this act,  
23 the department may use this appropriation for the purchase of legal  
24 services.

25 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$14,786 is appropriated to  
26 the department of law. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds  
27 received from the department of regulatory agencies under subsection (1)

1 of this section and is based on an assumption that the department of law  
2 will require an additional 0.1 FTE. To implement this act, the department  
3 of law may use this appropriation to provide legal services for the  
4 department of regulatory agencies.

5           **SECTION 41. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
6 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect January 1, 2023; except that, if a  
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
9 within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general  
10 assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless  
11 approved by the people at the general election to be held in November  
12 2022 and, in such case, will take effect January 1, 2023, or on the date of  
13 the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor, whichever is  
14 later.

15           (2) This act applies to the practice of dental therapy on or after the  
16 applicable effective date of this act.