

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0139

Denturist practice act.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winter

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to professions and occupations; amending  
2 dentists and dental hygienists licensing statutes to  
3 include denturists; authorizing a denturist to be added to  
4 the board of dental examiners as specified; specifying that  
5 this act does not apply to denturistry students performing  
6 denturistry as part of their curriculum; specifying that  
7 denturists shall only perform dental laboratory work at the  
8 direction of a dentist; requiring denturists and dental  
9 laboratory technicians to complete work for a dentist  
10 pursuant to a written prescription as specified; requiring  
11 dentists and denturists to engage the services of persons  
12 outside their office with a written work authorization;  
13 specifying that denturists in certain occupations are  
14 exempt from the act; specifying that denturists may perform  
15 services for patients if trained to do so in an accredited  
16 denturistry school and under the supervision of a dentist;

1 amending requirements relating to permissible supervised  
2 work by specified persons; requiring dental hygienists to  
3 be graduates of a board approved program in order to  
4 practice; amending definitions; providing definitions;  
5 amending other laws relating to dentists and dental  
6 hygienists to include denturists as specified; providing an  
7 appropriation; and providing for effective dates.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11       **Section 1.** W.S. 1-1-129(a)(i)(D), 33-15-101(c) and  
12 (e), 33-15-108(h), 33-15-109(a) and (b), 33-15-111,  
13 33-15-114(a)(xii) and (b)(intro), 33-15-115(a)(ii) through  
14 (iv) and by creating a new paragraph (v), 33-15-117,  
15 33-15-119, 33-15-120(a) and (c) through (e),  
16 33-15-121(a)(intro), (i), (iv) and (v), 33-15-128(a)(ii),  
17 (xii)(A) through (C), (xiii), by creating new paragraphs  
18 (xvii) and (xviii) and by renumbering (xvii) as (xix),  
19 33-15-131(d)(i), (ii)(A), (B), (iii)(A), (B), (iv)(A), (B),  
20 (e) and (g) through (j), 33-15-133(a) and 40-28-102(a)(iv)  
21 are amended to read:

22

1           **1-1-129. Immunity from liability for volunteer health**  
2 **care professionals; insurance required of nonprofit health**  
3 **care facility.**

4

5           (a) As used in this section:

6

7           (i) "Health care professional" means any of the  
8 following who provide medical or dental diagnosis, care or  
9 treatment:

10

11           (D) Dentists, ~~and~~ dental hygienists and  
12 denturists licensed to practice as provided in title 33,  
13 chapter 15 of the Wyoming statutes; and

14

15           **33-15-101. Board of dental examiners; generally.**

16

17           (c) No person is eligible to membership on the board  
18 who is not legally qualified to practice; who has not  
19 engaged in the active practice of dentistry in the state of  
20 Wyoming for at least five (5) continuous years immediately  
21 prior to appointment; who does not at the time of his  
22 appointment hold a certificate entitling him to practice  
23 dentistry in the state of Wyoming; and who is not a

1 resident of the state of Wyoming. One (1) appointed member  
2 of the board shall be a dental hygienist who has the  
3 qualifications provided in this act. One (1) appointed  
4 member of the board may be a denturist who has the  
5 qualifications provided in this act. No member shall  
6 succeed himself in office for more than two (2) successive  
7 terms.

8  
9 (e) Appointments by the governor to the board shall  
10 be made from a list of recommended names submitted by the  
11 Wyoming Dental Association, ~~and~~ Wyoming Dental Hygiene  
12 Association and the Wyoming State Denturist Association if  
13 a denturist serves on the board as follows:

14  
15 (i) The Wyoming Dental Association shall,  
16 through its secretary, present to the governor within  
17 fifteen (15) days after its regular annual meeting a list  
18 of the names of not less than ten (10) candidates from  
19 which appointments for vacancies on the board occurring  
20 during the ensuing year shall be made; ~~and~~

21  
22 (ii) The Wyoming Dental Hygiene Association  
23 shall, through its secretary, present to the governor

1 within fifteen (15) days after its regular annual meeting a  
2 list of not less than three (3) candidates from which  
3 appointments for vacancies on the board occurring during  
4 the ensuing year shall be made ~~;~~ and

5  
6 (iii) If a denturist serves on the board, the  
7 Wyoming State Denturist Association shall, through its  
8 secretary, present to the governor within fifteen (15) days  
9 after its regular annual meeting a list of not less than  
10 three (3) candidates from which appointments for vacancies  
11 on the board occurring during the ensuing year shall be  
12 made.

13  
14 **33-15-108. Licensing; qualifications; examinations;**  
15 **fees.**

16  
17 (h) The board may make and prescribe rules and  
18 regulations for the licensure and practice of dentistry in  
19 the state of Wyoming, not inconsistent with this act. For  
20 purposes of this subsection, "practice of dentistry"  
21 includes the work of dental hygienists, denturists, dental  
22 auxiliaries, dental technicians and dental laboratories.

23

1           **33-15-109. Renewal license certificate.**

2

3           (a) On or before December 31 of every second year,  
4 each dentist and denturist licensed to practice dentistry  
5 in this state and wishing to continue in the practice of  
6 dentistry shall submit a license renewal application with  
7 the applicable renewal fee. Any license granted by the  
8 board shall expire if the holder fails to secure the  
9 renewal certificate within three (3) months after the date  
10 that the license renewal application is required to be  
11 submitted.

12

13           (b) Any dentist or denturist whose application for  
14 renewal indicates that the dentist or denturist has not  
15 actively practiced dentistry or engaged in teaching  
16 dentistry, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry for the  
17 preceding five (5) years shall be issued a renewal  
18 certificate only after demonstrating to the board that the  
19 dentist or denturist has maintained the qualifications set  
20 forth in this act. The board may require reexamination if  
21 it finds good cause to believe that the person has not  
22 maintained the professional ability and knowledge required  
23 of an original licensee.

1

2           **33-15-111. List of licensees filed with board office.**

3

4 The board shall annually publish a list of all dentists,  
5 ~~and~~ dental hygienists and denturists licensed under this  
6 act. The list shall contain the name and address of each  
7 dentist, ~~and~~ dental hygienist and dentist and such other  
8 information as the board deems advisable. The board office  
9 shall furnish copies to the public upon request or by  
10 access to the board's website.

11

12           **33-15-114. Persons deemed to be practicing dentistry;**  
13 **work authorizations from licensed dentist.**

14

15           (a) Except as provided by paragraph (xii) of this  
16 subsection, any person is deemed to be practicing dentistry  
17 within the meaning of this act:

18

19           (xii) A dental laboratory, ~~or~~ dental technician  
20 or denturist is not practicing dentistry within the meaning  
21 of this act when engaged in the construction, making,  
22 alteration or repairing of bridges, crowns, dentures or  
23 other prosthetic or surgical appliances, or orthodontic

1 appliances if the casts or molds or impressions upon which  
2 the work is constructed have been made by a regularly  
3 licensed and practicing dentist or denturist, and if all  
4 crowns, bridges, dentures or prosthetic appliances,  
5 surgical appliances or orthodontic appliances are returned  
6 to the dentist upon whose order the work is constructed.

7  
8 (b) Any licensed dentist or denturist who employs or  
9 engages the service of any person, firm or corporation  
10 outside of the dental office to construct, reproduce, make,  
11 alter or repair bridges, crowns, dentures or other  
12 prosthetic, surgical or orthodontic appliances shall  
13 furnish the person with a written work authorization on  
14 forms prescribed by the board, which contain:

15

16 **33-15-115. Persons to whom chapter inapplicable.**

17

18 (a) Nothing in this act contained applies:

19

20 (ii) To a legally qualified dentist, dental  
21 hygienist or ~~dentist~~denturist engaged in full-time duties  
22 with the United States armed forces, public health service,  
23 veterans administration or other federal agencies;



1

2 (iii) To a legally qualified ~~dental hygienist or~~  
3 dentist, dental hygienist or denturist of another state  
4 making a clinical demonstration before a meeting of  
5 dentists or dental auxiliaries; ~~or~~

6

7 (iv) To dental, ~~and~~ dental hygiene and  
8 denturistry students actively enrolled in any American  
9 Dental Association or other board approved accredited  
10 dental or denturistry educational program performing  
11 services as a part of the curriculum of that program under  
12 the direct supervision of a Wyoming licensed dentist, ~~or~~  
13 Wyoming licensed dental hygienist instructor or Wyoming  
14 licensed denturist; or

15

16 (v) To denturistry students actively enrolled in  
17 any educational institution approved by the board and  
18 pursuing a major course of study in denturistry.

19

20 **33-15-117. Dental laboratory technicians and**  
21 **denturists.**

22

1 Dentists may employ one (1) or more dental laboratory  
2 technicians or denturists who work only under the direction  
3 and supervision of the dentist and who shall not be  
4 permitted under any circumstances to do any unsupervised  
5 work upon any patient. Dental laboratory technicians and  
6 denturists shall not be allowed to do laboratory work of  
7 any kind except at the direction of dentists duly licensed  
8 to practice, and then only upon written prescription issued  
9 by the dentists if the dental laboratory work is completed  
10 outside the dental office.

11

12 **33-15-119. Dental hygienists and denturists;**  
13 **generally.**

14

15 Any dentist authorized to practice dentistry within the  
16 state may employ dental hygienists and denturists who shall  
17 be examined and possess the qualifications provided in this  
18 act. A dental hygienist or denturist may perform any  
19 services for a patient which are consistent with what the  
20 dental hygienists and denturists are trained to do in  
21 accredited dental hygiene or denturistry schools accredited  
22 by the commission on dental accreditation of the American  
23 Dental Association, the National Denturist Association or

1 other board approved education program. Hygienists and  
2 denturists shall not perform any other operation on the  
3 teeth or mouth and shall be regulated by the rules and  
4 regulations promulgated by the board. The above services  
5 shall be performed under the supervision of a licensed  
6 dentist. Dental hygienists and denturists shall practice in  
7 the office of any licensed dentist, or in any public or  
8 private institution under the supervision of a licensed  
9 dentist. The board may revoke or suspend the license of any  
10 dentist who permits any dental hygienist or denturist  
11 operating under his supervision to perform any operations  
12 or functions other than those permitted under this act.

13

14 **33-15-120. Dental hygienists and denturists;**  
15 **qualifications; examination; fees and license.**

16

17 (a) Any person who has a background that does not  
18 evidence conduct adverse to the practice of dental hygiene  
19 or denturistry or to the ability to practice dental hygiene  
20 who is or denturistry and meets the following qualifications  
21 may apply to the board to have the person's qualifications  
22 considered for licensure to practice dental hygiene or  
23 denturistry as follows:

1

2 (i) An applicant for licensure as a dental  
3 hygienist shall be a graduate of a dental hygiene program  
4 accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the  
5 American Dental Association or other board approved  
6 program, who has passed a written, clinical and state  
7 examination as determined by rule of the board may apply to  
8 the board to have the person's qualifications considered  
9 for licensure to practice dental hygiene;

10

11 (ii) An applicant for licensure as a dentist  
12 shall be a graduate of a dentist program certified by the  
13 National Denturist Association or other board approved  
14 educational program, shall pass in a manner satisfactory to  
15 the board an examination for the practice of dentistry  
16 established by the National Denturist Association or other  
17 board approved examination and shall pass a clinical  
18 examination accepted by the board. Applicants shall be  
19 required to pass a written examination satisfactory to the  
20 board;

21

22 (iii) Persons licensed to practice dentistry  
23 under the laws of any other state, territory of the United

1 States, District of Columbia or Puerto Rico, with  
2 substantially equivalent licensing standards to this  
3 chapter applicable to denturistry shall be licensed without  
4 examination upon providing the board with the following:

5  
6 (A) Proof of successfully passing a written  
7 and clinical examination for denturistry in a state,  
8 territory of the United States, District of Columbia or  
9 Puerto Rico, that the board has determined has  
10 substantially equivalent licensing standards as those in  
11 this act, including but not limited to, both the written  
12 and clinical examination; and

13  
14 (B) An affidavit from the licensing agency  
15 where the person is licensed or certified attesting to the  
16 fact of the person's licensure or certification.

17  
18 (c) If the applicant successfully completes the  
19 requirements for licensure, the applicant shall be licensed  
20 as a dental hygienist or denturist. If the expanded duties  
21 applicant has successfully met the requirements for  
22 expanded duties, the applicant shall be certified in those  
23 expanded duties. The certificate issued by the board shall

1 list the expanded duties which the hygienist or dentist  
2 is qualified and permitted to perform. On or before  
3 December 31 of every second year, each dental hygienist or  
4 denturist licensed to practice dental hygiene or denturistry  
5 and wishing to continue in the practice of dental hygiene  
6 or denturistry shall submit a license renewal application  
7 with the applicable renewal fee. The renewal certificate  
8 shall be made available to the supervising dentist. Any  
9 license granted by the board shall expire if the holder  
10 fails to secure the renewal certificate within three (3)  
11 months after the date that the license renewal application  
12 is required to be submitted. Any license that has expired  
13 may be restored by the board upon payment of a fee set by  
14 the board, if paid by December 31 of the year the license  
15 expired.

16

17 (d) Any dental hygienist or dentist whose  
18 application for renewal indicates that the hygienist or  
19 denturist has not actively practiced dental hygiene or  
20 denturistry or engaged in teaching dental hygiene or  
21 denturistry for the preceding five (5) years shall be issued  
22 a renewal certificate only after demonstrating to the board  
23 that the hygienist or dentist has maintained the

1 qualifications set forth in this act. The board may require  
2 reexamination if it finds good cause to believe that the  
3 person has not maintained the professional ability and  
4 knowledge required of an original licensee under this act.

5

6 (e) The board shall promulgate reasonable rules and  
7 regulations for the licensure and practice of dental  
8 hygienists ~~and the practice of dental hygiene~~ and  
9 denturists, and may prescribe continuing education  
10 requirements for renewal certificates and relicensure.

11

12 **33-15-121. Grounds and proceedings for suspension of,**  
13 **revocation of or refusal to renew a license for a dental**  
14 **hygienist or denturist.**

15

16 (a) The board may refuse to issue or renew, or may  
17 suspend or revoke, the license of any dental hygienist or  
18 denturist for any of the following causes:

19

20 (i) Conviction of, entry of a plea of nolo  
21 contendere to or entry of a deferred prosecution agreement  
22 pursuant to W.S. 7-13-301 to a felony or misdemeanor that  
23 relates adversely to the practice of dental hygiene or

1 denturistry or the ability to practice dental hygiene or  
2 denturistry;

3

4 (iv) Renting or loaning to another person the  
5 hygienist's or dentist's license or diploma to be used as  
6 a license or diploma for the other person;

7

8 (v) Being unfit or incompetent to practice  
9 dental hygiene or denturistry for any reason, including but  
10 not limited to:

11

12 (A) Inability to practice dental hygiene or  
13 denturistry with reasonable skill and safety because of  
14 physical or mental disability or the use of alcohol,  
15 prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs or other  
16 psychoactive substance; or

17

18 (B) Performance of unsafe dental hygiene  
19 practice or denturistry practice or failure to conform to  
20 the standards of acceptable professional dental hygiene  
21 practice or denturistry practice, whether or not actual  
22 injury results.

23



1           **33-15-128. Definitions.**

2

3           (a) As used in this act:

4

5                   (ii) "Dentistry" means the healing art practiced  
6 by a dentist, dental hygienist or a denturist which is  
7 concerned with the examination, diagnosis, treatment,  
8 planning and care of conditions within the human oral  
9 cavity and its adjacent tissues and structures;

10

11                   (xii) "Proprietor" includes any person who:

12

13                           (A) Employs dentists, dental hygienists,  
14 denturists or dental auxiliaries in the operation of a  
15 dental office, except as defined in this act; or

16

17                           (B) Places in the possession of a dentist,  
18 dental hygienist, ~~or~~ denturist, dental auxiliary or any  
19 other agent such dental material or equipment as may be  
20 necessary for the management of a dental office on the  
21 basis of a lease or any other agreement for compensation  
22 for the use of such material, equipment or offices; or

23

1 (C) Retains the ownership or control of  
2 dental equipment or material or office and makes the same  
3 available in any manner for the use by dentists, dental  
4 hygienists, denturists, dental auxiliaries or any other  
5 agents, excepting that nothing in this subparagraph shall  
6 apply to bona fide sales of dental equipment or material  
7 secured by a chattel mortgage or retain-title agreement or  
8 the loan of articulators.

9

10 (xiii) "Expanded duties" means those patient's  
11 services which are beyond those regularly practiced by  
12 dental hygienists, ~~or~~ denturists, dental technicians or  
13 other dental auxiliary functions and which require  
14 additional education which shall be approved by the board  
15 of dental examiners of Wyoming and are to be performed  
16 under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist;

17

18 (xvii) "Denturist" means a person who is  
19 supervised by a dentist and is licensed to render removable  
20 oral prostheses services, education and dentistry services  
21 defined in this act, as well as other duties required in  
22 the practice of a denturist's duties;

23

1            (xviii) "Denturistry" means the practice of a  
2 denturist who, at the direction and supervision of a  
3 licensed dentist, makes, provides, repairs or alters  
4 removable oral prosthetic appliances and other removable  
5 artificial devices that are inserted into the human mouth  
6 or that come into contact with the human mouth and its  
7 adjacent tissues and structures;

8  
9            ~~(xvii)~~(xix) "This act" means W.S. 33-15-101  
10 through 33-15-133 and may be cited as the "Wyoming Dental  
11 Practice Act".

12  
13            **33-15-131. Dentist, dental hygienist or denturist**  
14 **volunteer certificate.**

15  
16            (d) An application for a volunteer's certificate  
17 shall include all of the following:

18  
19            (i) A copy of the applicant's dentistry, ~~or~~  
20 dental hygienist or denturist degree;

21  
22            (ii) One (1) of the following, as applicable:

23

1 (A) A copy of the applicant's most recent  
2 license or certificate authorizing the practice of  
3 dentistry, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry issued by a  
4 jurisdiction in the United States that licenses persons to  
5 practice dentistry, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry; or  
6

7 (B) A copy of the applicant's most recent  
8 license equivalent to a license to practice dentistry, ~~or~~  
9 dental hygiene or denturistry in one (1) or more branches of  
10 the United States armed services that the United States  
11 government issued.

12  
13 (iii) Evidence of one (1) of the following, as  
14 applicable:

15  
16 (A) That the applicant has maintained for  
17 at least ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement  
18 full licensure in good standing in any jurisdiction in the  
19 United States that licenses persons to practice as a  
20 dentist, ~~or~~ dental hygienist or denturist; or  
21

22 (B) That the applicant has practiced for at  
23 least ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement in

1 good standing as a dentist, ~~or~~ dental hygienist or  
2 denturist in one (1) or more of the branches of the United  
3 States armed services. ~~and~~

4

5 (iv) A notarized statement from the applicant,  
6 on a form prescribed by the board, that the applicant:

7

8 (A) Will not accept any form of  
9 remuneration for any dental, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or  
10 denturistry services rendered while in possession of a  
11 volunteer's certificate;

12

13 (B) Will devote his practice exclusively  
14 and totally to providing dental, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or  
15 denturistry services to low income uninsured persons at a  
16 nonprofit health care facility in this state; and

17

18 (e) The holder of a volunteer's certificate may  
19 provide dental, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry services  
20 only on the premises of a nonprofit health care facility in  
21 this state and only to low income uninsured persons. The  
22 holder shall not accept any form of remuneration for  
23 providing dental, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry services

1 while in possession of the certificate. The board may  
2 revoke a volunteer's certificate on receiving proof  
3 satisfactory to the board that the holder has engaged in  
4 practice in this state outside the scope of the  
5 certificate.

6

7 (g) To be eligible for renewal of a volunteer's  
8 certificate, the holder of the certificate shall certify to  
9 the board completion of any continuing education required  
10 under this act as if the holder of the certificate were in  
11 active practice. The board shall not renew a certificate if  
12 the holder has not complied with the continuing education  
13 requirements. The nonprofit health care facility in which  
14 the holder provides dental, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry  
15 services may pay for or reimburse the holder for any costs  
16 incurred in obtaining the required continuing education.

17

18 (h) The board shall issue to each person who  
19 qualifies under this section a volunteer's certificate that  
20 states the certificate holder is authorized to provide  
21 dental, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or denturistry services pursuant  
22 to the laws of this state.

23

1           (j) Except as provided in this section, any person  
2 holding a volunteer's certificate issued by the board under  
3 this section shall be subject to the requirements of this  
4 act and the jurisdiction of the board as if he were  
5 licensed to practice dentistry, ~~or~~ dental hygiene or  
6 denturistry under this act.

7

8           **33-15-133. Temporary educator's license.**

9

10           (a) A temporary license may be issued to any  
11 denturist, dentist or dental hygienist who has applied for  
12 licensure and who exhibits good standing in another  
13 jurisdiction of the United States or Canada and has  
14 qualified for the requirements to be employed as an  
15 instructor at a dental hygiene or denturistry school.

16

17           **40-28-102. Medical digital innovation sandbox waiver;**  
18 **applicability of criminal statutes; referrals; civil**  
19 **liability.**

20

21           (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
22 person who makes an innovative medical digital assessment  
23 product or service available to consumers in the medical

1 digital innovation sandbox may be granted a waiver from  
2 specified requirements imposed by statute or rule, or  
3 portions thereof, if these statutes or rules do not  
4 currently permit the product or service to be made  
5 available to consumers. A waiver under this subsection  
6 shall be no broader than necessary to accomplish the  
7 purposes and standards set forth in this act, as determined  
8 by the department or the appropriate licensing board or  
9 authority under the chapters listed in this subsection.  
10 The statutes within the following chapters of title 33 of  
11 the Wyoming statutes, and the rules adopted under them, or  
12 portions thereof, may be waived by the department and the  
13 appropriate licensing boards or authorities, upon receipt  
14 and approval of an application made to the department  
15 pursuant to W.S. 40-28-103:

16

17 (iv) Chapter 15, dentists, ~~and~~ dental hygienists  
18 and denturists;

19

20 **Section 2.**

21

22 (a) If there are three (3) denturist candidates  
23 interested in serving on the board of dental examiners, the



1 governor may appoint a denturist from the list of three (3)  
2 candidates proposed by the Wyoming State Denturist  
3 Association to the board of dental examiners pursuant to  
4 W.S. 33-51-101, as amended by this act, not later than July  
5 1, 2024.

6  
7 (b) If the governor appoints a denturist to the board  
8 of dental examiners, the Wyoming State Denturist  
9 Association shall present to the governor a list of not  
10 less than three (3) candidates from which appointments for  
11 vacancies on the board of dental examiners occurring during  
12 the ensuing year shall be made pursuant to W.S. 33-15-101,  
13 as amended by this act, not later than July 1, 2024.

14  
15 **Section 3.** There is appropriated eighteen thousand  
16 dollars (\$18,000.00) from the board of dental examiners'  
17 account within the special revenue fund to the board of  
18 dental examiners to pay for the administrative costs  
19 incurred by the board of dental examiners to implement this  
20 act for the period beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
21 2026. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
22 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
23 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds

1 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
2 by law on June 30, 2026. It is the intent of the  
3 legislature that this appropriation be included in the  
4 board of dental examiners' standard budget for the  
5 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

6

7 **Section 4.**

8

9 (a) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of  
10 this section, this act is effective July 1, 2024.

11

12 (b) Sections 2 and 4 of this act are effective  
13 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a  
14 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of  
15 the Wyoming Constitution.

16

17 (END)