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GOVERNOR

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October 23, 2023

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

On Friday, November 17, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. the Board of Dental Practice (“the Board”) will conduct a public hearing to gather information from stakeholders and interested parties to consider changes in Board membership and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services (“the Committee”) no later than January 31, 2024.

The Committee’s letter to the Board dated June 7, 2023, reads in part:

During the committee's consideration of LD 1581, the committee considered a proposed change to the membership of the Board of Dental Practice that would add 2 additional members who are dental hygienists. In response to those concerns, the committee decided to defer action on this proposal to allow additional time for consideration. We are writing to request that the Board of Dental Practice consult with stakeholders, including representatives of dental hygienists and other dental professionals, to review the current membership of the board and consider changes in board membership to enhance representation for dental hygienists and dental therapists. We ask that the board report on it review, and any recommendations for changes, to the committee no later than January 31, 2024.

During this hearing, the Board will accept oral testimony and comments to the following questions posed below:

Question 1. Would the public be better served if the current composition of the Board of Dental Practice was changed or expanded to enhance representation of dental hygienists and dental therapists? Below is the current composition of board seats:

Current composition: 5 dentists, 2 hygienists, 1 denturist, 1 public member (9 seats)

Question 2. Would the public be better served if the composition of the Board of Dental Practice was changed or expanded to represent a broader representation of licensed dental professionals? Below is a list of the major licensure and practice categories not identified above:

Dental licensure and practice categories: dentists with sedation permits, independent practice dental hygienists, public health dental hygienist, expanded functions dental assistants, dental radiographers, and faculty licensees.

Details for those wishing to provide comments: Stakeholders and interested parties may submit comments to the question orally on November 17th or in writing no later than December 1, 2023.

- **Oral comments:**

- Manner of presentation: Oral comments may be provided either in person at Room #118 at the Marquardt Conference Room, Department of Marine Resources, East Campus, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta, Maine or remotely over the Zoom platform.
- Length of presentation: The Board anticipates limiting each comment to approximately 5 minutes, depending on the number of representatives who sign up to speak during the meeting.
- How to sign up: If you wish to present your comments orally to the Board during the meeting, please send an email to Penny Vaillancourt (penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov) with the subject line “request to speak at November 17, 2023 meeting.” Please provide (1) the name and title of the person presenting; (2) the name of the organization they represent, if applicable; (3) an indication whether the presenter will attend the meeting in person or remotely over the Zoom platform and (4) if the presenter will appear remotely, the email address to which the Zoom invitation should be sent.
- **Deadline: You must sign up by email to speak by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6th.** This deadline is necessary to help properly plan for the meeting and to ensure that all speakers receive their link for the Zoom meeting.
- Accompanying written comments: Organizations providing oral comments may also submit written comments by the deadline listed below.

- **Written comments:**

- How to submit: Written comments should be emailed to Penny Vaillancourt at (penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov) with the subject line “comments for November 17, 2023 meeting.” Please be sure that the document you submit includes (1) the name and title of the person who prepared the comments; and (2) the name of the organization they represent, if applicable.
- **Deadline: You must submit your written comments by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 2023.** Comments received after that date will not be accepted.

Please contact Penny Vaillancourt at either penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov or by phone at (207)287-3333 should you have any questions.