

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Robert Shook, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/28

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Modifies qualifications for limited access permit dental hygienist (LAP) authorized to practice dental hygiene without supervision. Requires 2,500 hours of supervised training, 40 hours of course work in formal, post-secondary accredited educational program, and 500 hours of dental hygiene practice on patients under the direct supervision of member of faculty of a dental program or dental hygiene program with required accreditation. Allows LAPS to render all services permitted under scope of practice of dental hygiene to patients in hospitals, medical clinics, medical offices or offices operated or staffed by nurse practitioners, physician assistants or midwives. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Definition of limited access permit dental hygienist
- Clarification on practicing without a license or without supervision

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon was one of the first states to recognize the need to utilize dental hygienists to increase access to oral health and that dental hygiene supervision requirements restricted the public's access to preventive dental hygiene services. The state legislatively authorized dental hygienists to provide services in a variety of health care settings without the supervision of a dentist, and in 1997 enacted legislation allowing for a "limited access" dental hygiene permit or LAP. Through that legislation, a dental hygienist certified with a limited access permit is legally allowed to examine the patient, gather data, interpret the data to determine the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs, and formulate a patient care plan. LAP dental hygienists are required to have additional education and clinical practice experience to receive this special permit to provide dental hygiene services without supervision by a dentist.

There is currently a shortage of licensed dental hygienists. House Bill 3204-A expands the ability of LAPs to provide dental hygiene treatments to underserved Oregonians, especially rural areas and those residents of limited financial means. The measure is intended to reduce some of the barriers that prevent LAPs from providing hygiene treatments to needy Oregonians.