STATE OF NEW YORK

10958

IN ASSEMBLY

April 14, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. GRAY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to permitting waiver of dental residency requirements for licensure in underserved areas under supervised practice

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds that many rural and underserved communities across the state face significant shortages of licensed dental professionals, resulting in reduced access to essential oral health services. Current law requires completion of a one-year clinically based dental residency program in a hospital or facility accredited for teaching purposes. While intended to ensure competence, this requirement may unintentionally limit the timely placement of qualified dental graduates in underserved regions.

It is the intent of this legislation to provide a narrowly tailored waiver option to address workforce shortages by permitting qualified dental graduates to practice under structured supervision in underserved areas, thereby expanding access to oral health services while maintaining standards of safety and competency.

§ 2. Subdivision 3 of section 6604 of the education law, as amended by chapter 613 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Experience: have experience satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations, provided that such experience shall consist of satisfactory completion of a postdoctoral general practice or specialty dental residency program, of at least one year's duration, in a hospital or dental facility accredited for teaching purposes by a national accrediting body approved by the department, provided, further that any such residency program shall include a formal outcome assessment evaluation of the resident's competence to practice dentistry acceptable to the department**. Provided, however, that the department may waive such residency requirement for an applicant who agrees to practice full-time in an underserved area of the state, as designated by the commissioner in consultation with the department of**

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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health, under the direct or general supervision of a dentist licensed and actively practicing in this state for not less than three years. Such supervision shall occur within a radius of seventy-five miles from the supervising dentist's primary practice location. The period of supervised practice shall not be less than twelve consecutive months and shall be subject to reporting and evaluation requirements established by the commissioner to ensure competency equivalent to that obtained through residency training. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing: (i) criteria for designation of underserved areas eligible for waiver of such residency requirement, in consultation with the department of health; (ii) qualifications of supervising dentists, including minimum licensure period, disciplinary history, and supervisory capacity; (iii) reporting and evaluation procedures to monitor performance of dentists practicing under such waiver; and (iv) conditions under which such waiver shall convert to permanent fulfillment of the residency requirement, upon successful completion of the supervised practice period;

§ 3. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this act.