

DH Focus
Fall 2018
2018 ISDS Legislative Roundup

Several pieces of legislation passed in 2018 that will be of particular interest to dental hygienists.

HB4908: School Dental Exams

House Bill 4908 was signed into law on August 13, 2018 as [Public Act 100-0829](#) and effective January 1, 2019. It amended the Illinois School Code expanding the requirement that all children in kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades, now adding 9th grade, have a dental examination before May 15 of each year. If proof of a dental examination is not submitted to the school, the school may withhold the child's report card.

SB2491: Medicaid FQHC Payments for Services Provided Under General Supervision

Senate Bill 2491 clarified that federally qualified health centers (FQHC) could bill Illinois Medicaid and receive their encounter reimbursement for services provided by dental hygienists working under general supervision. Since general supervision has been allowed for over a decade, many FQHCs had begun billing for the services until the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) stopped the practice in August of 2017. HFS said it was in violation of its administrative rules that defined an encounter only as a face-to-face meeting with a dentist. ISDS worked with the Illinois Primary Healthcare Association to pass SB-2491 that became law as [Public Act 100-0974](#) on August 19, 2018.

SB2587: Dentistry Added to Illinois Telehealth Act

Senate Bill 2587 added dentists to the list of professionals that can evaluate, diagnosis or interpret electronically transmitted data in accordance with the particular practice act for its profession. This further supports the use of tele-healthcare and would allow dentists to work with their dental auxiliaries to extend their practice reach into remote areas or to where certain expertise is not currently available. The law will become effective January 1, 2019, as [Public Act 100-0930](#).

HB4953: Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Licensed Professionals

House Bill 4953 will require that all professions licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation take at least a one-hour continuing education course on sexual harassment prevention training for license renewal occurring on or after January 1, 2020. This translates into dentists and dental hygienists having to take a course before the September 30, 2021 renewal. The one-hour course can be part of any current hours needed for each renewal, 48 hours for dentists and 36 hours for dental hygienists, over the three-year period. It was signed into law as [Public Act 100-0762](#) on August 10, 2018, with an effective date of January 1, 2019.