

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

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WSR 24-16-138



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Health - Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Subject of possible rule making:

Adding minimum age requirements for dental assistant registration. The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is considering amending WAC 246-187-190 (Dental assistant registration) to include a minimum age requirement for dental assistant registration.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:

RCW 18.32.0365, 18.260.040

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:

The commission has been receiving an increased number of minors applying for dental assistant registration. Applicants as young as age twelve have applied for dental assistant registration. Each of these applications must be reviewed on an individual basis by the commission, which increases the workload for commission panel reviews. Dental assistant positions are often in areas where hazardous substances are present and there is a risk of possible exposure to bodily fluids or other infectious agents. Rulemaking is the best option to set clear expectations for dental assistant registration applicants.

On April 26, 2024, during the Dental Quality Assurance Commission Business Meeting, the commission authorized rulemaking to amend WAC 246-817-190 to set a standard minimum age requirement for dental assistants. Updating this rule would prevent minors from applying for dental assistant registration.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:

None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):


- Negotiated rule-making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) Collaborative rule-making.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

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|--|-------------------------|
| Name: Debbie Gardner, Program Manager | (If necessary) Name: |
| Address: PO Box 47852, Olympia, WA, 98504-7852 | Address: |
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| Other: | Other: |

Additional comments:

Interested parties can participate in the drafting of the proposed rules. The commission will be conducting rules workshops with interested parties and subject matter experts. The commission will use existing GovDelivery lists and other known contact information to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language. To find out more information about our rulemaking, visit doh.wa.gov. To subscribe to GovDelivery, please visit doh.wa.gov and select the button titled "Sign up for Updates From DOH" button at the bottom of the page. After signing in, select "Health Systems Quality Assurance" and "Health Professions" and "Dental." You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to receive information related to that specific profession.

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| Date: 08/01/2024 | Signature:  |
| Name: Bryan Swanson, DDS | |
| Title: Dental Quality Assurance Commission Chair | |