

SENATE BILL NO. 501—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH 23, 2015

---

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

**SUMMARY**—Revises provisions relating to the State Dental Health Officer and the State Public Health Dental Hygienist. (BDR 40-1162)

**FISCAL NOTE:** Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Executive Budget.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

---

AN ACT relating to public health; authorizing the State Dental Health Officer and the State Public Health Dental Hygienist to serve in the unclassified service of the State or as a contractor for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; requiring the State Dental Health Officer and the State Public Health Dental Hygienist to work collaboratively; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 Existing law requires the appointment of a State Dental Health Officer and a  
2 State Public Health Dental Hygienist and specifies that those positions are in the  
3 unclassified service of the State. (NRS 439.272, 439.279) This bill provides that  
4 those positions may, in lieu of being in the unclassified service, be contractors for  
5 the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and  
6 Human Services. Existing law requires the State Dental Health Officer to supervise  
7 the activities of the State Public Health Dental Hygienist, and requires the State  
8 Public Health Dental Hygienist to assist the State Dental Health Officer. (NRS  
9 439.272, 439.279) This bill further requires the State Dental Health Officer and the  
10 State Public Health Dental Hygienist to work collaboratively with each other.

---



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 439.272 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.272 1. The Division shall appoint, with the consent of the Director, a State Dental Health Officer, who ~~is~~ *may serve* in the unclassified service of the State ~~or as a contractor for the Division~~. The State Dental Health Officer must:

(a) Be a resident of this State;

(b) Hold a current license to practice dentistry issued pursuant to chapter 631 of NRS; and

(c) Be appointed on the basis of his or her education, training and experience and his or her interest in public dental health and related programs.

2. The State Dental Health Officer shall:

(a) Determine the needs of the residents of this State for public dental health;

(b) Provide the Advisory Committee and the Division with advice regarding public dental health;

(c) Make recommendations to the Advisory Committee, the Division and the Legislature regarding programs in this State for public dental health;

(d) ~~Supervise the activities of~~ *Work collaboratively with* the State Public Health Dental Hygienist; and

(e) Seek such information and advice from the Advisory Committee or a dental school of the Nevada System of Higher Education as necessary to carry out his or her duties.

3. The State Dental Health Officer shall devote all of his or her time to the business of his or her office and shall not pursue any other business or vocation or hold any other office of profit.

4. Pursuant to NRS 439.2794, the Division may solicit and accept gifts and grants to pay the costs associated with oral health programs.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 439.279 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.279 1. The Division shall appoint, with the consent of the Director, a State Public Health Dental Hygienist, who ~~is~~ *may serve* in the unclassified service of the State ~~or as a contractor for the Division~~. The State Public Health Dental Hygienist must:

(a) Be a resident of this State;

(b) Hold a current license to practice dental hygiene issued pursuant to chapter 631 of NRS with a special endorsement issued pursuant to NRS 631.287; and

(c) Be appointed on the basis of his or her education, training and experience and his or her interest in public health dental hygiene and related programs.



- 1        2. The State Public Health Dental Hygienist:  
2        (a) Shall ~~assist~~ *work collaboratively with* the State Dental  
3 Health Officer in carrying out his or her duties; and  
4        (b) May:  
5            (1) Provide advice and make recommendations to the  
6 Advisory Committee and the Division regarding programs in this  
7 State for public health dental hygiene; and  
8            (2) Perform any acts authorized pursuant to NRS 631.287.  
9        3. The State Public Health Dental Hygienist shall devote all of  
10 his or her time to the business of his or her office and shall not  
11 pursue any other business or vocation or hold any other office of  
12 profit.  
13        4. The Division may solicit and accept gifts and grants to pay  
14 the costs associated with the position of State Public Health Dental  
15 Hygienist.  
16        **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

