

REFERENCE TITLE: oral preventive assistants; qualifications

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2326

Introduced by
Representative Hendrix: Senator Petersen

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-1291.02, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-1291.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 32-1291.02. Oral preventive assistants; qualifications; scope
5 of practice; supervision; definition

6 A. In order to practice as an oral preventive assistant, a dental
7 assistant shall complete a ~~board-approved~~ STATE BOARD OF DENTAL
8 EXAMINERS-APPROVED oral preventive assistant training course that includes
9 at least ~~one hundred twenty~~ THIRTY hours of ~~didactic and~~ clinical
10 instruction with patients and NINETY HOURS OF DIDACTIC INSTRUCTION that is
11 provided by a qualifying institution. Before taking an oral preventive
12 assistant training course, a dental assistant must meet all of the
13 following:

14 1. Hold a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

15 2. Hold a ~~board-approved~~ STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS-APPROVED
16 certification for both coronal polishing and radiography.

17 3. ~~Either~~ ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

18 (a) Hold a current national board certification in dental
19 assisting.

20 (b) Have successfully completed a dental assisting educational
21 program accredited by a state or national organization that accredits
22 dental programs.

23 (c) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATIONAL
24 PROGRAM OFFERED BY A LICENSED PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE
25 IN THIS STATE.

26 B. The scope of practice for an oral preventive assistant is
27 limited to removing plaque, calculus and stains, with scalers or sonic or
28 ultrasonic scaling devices, on patients who have first received a
29 periodontal evaluation by a dentist or dental hygienist. An oral
30 preventive assistant may practice only on periodontally healthy patients
31 or patients with localized mild gingivitis. An oral preventive assistant
32 may not use any air polishing technology or device or practice on patients
33 who have been treated for periodontal disease, have generalized recession,
34 are medically compromised or are under sedation.

35 C. An oral preventive assistant who provides coronal calculus
36 removal services pursuant to this section shall both:

37 1. Inform each patient and document in the patient's clinical
38 record that the patient's care was not provided by a licensed dental
39 provider.

40 2. Prominently post the oral preventive assistant's certificate of
41 completion of an approved course of instruction at the location where the
42 coronal calculus removal services are performed.

43 D. An oral preventive assistant may practice in this state only
44 under the direct supervision of a dentist or dental hygienist. A dentist
45 may supervise not more than three oral preventive assistants at the same

1 time. A dental hygienist may supervise not more than one oral preventive
2 assistant at any time. A dentist or dental hygienist who allows an oral
3 preventive assistant to perform coronal calculus removal services in
4 violation of this section commits an act of unprofessional conduct.

5 E. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying institution" means
6 EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

7 1. An institution of higher education, including a community
8 college, that provides a dental or dental hygiene program that is
9 accredited by the commission on dental accreditation, or its successor.

10 2. AN INSTITUTION THAT IS LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
11 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, THAT HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR AT LEAST FIVE
12 YEARS AND THAT OFFERS A DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES LIVE
13 PATIENT CLINICAL TRAINING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST.