

Government Relations Update
Shari Becker, CDA, RDA, FADAA, AS

Are you ready for some change? Change is defined as replacing (something) with something else, especially something of the same kind that is newer or better; substitute one thing for (another). The profession of dental assisting is in for significant changes. Changes include scope of practice, qualifications for education, certificates, permits and pathways to licensure. On August 30, 2024, SB 1453 was moved closer to be signed by the Governor.

The latest version of this bill, dated August 22, 2024, contains multiple changes that were not in previous versions. As of this report, we have been informed that this is the final version of the bill. The Alliance has attended the Dental Assisting Council and Dental Board meetings to voice our concerns regarding many of these changes throughout this process. The most recent DAC and DBC meeting was held August 15th. Unfortunately, the final language of this bill was not available for that meeting.

Most sections in the bill will become effective 1/1/2025. However, there are some sections that will become effective 7/1/2025.

Below are summaries of a few of the upcoming changes. The exact wording can be found in the [actual bill](#). The dental assisting sections begin on page 44 with Section 1740.

Composition of the board-

NEW-The position of the RDH will be replaced with an RDA. The board will then have 2 RDA's on the dental board. This is great to have additional representation on the board.

Call for RDA applicants to serve on the dental board! We need YOU! Please consider this position to represent dental assisting on the Dental Board.

For the unlicensed dental assistant-

Required education: There will be a change on when the 8-hour infection control course, BLS CPR and 2-hour DPA need to be taken.

NEW timing: The 8-hour infection control course is now required to be completed **PRIOR** to performing basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials.

Content of the 8-hour IC course and delivery:

Previous: The 8-hour infection control course required 4 hours didactic, 2 hours lab/pre-clinical, 2 hours clinical.

NEW: 6 hours didactic, 2 hours lab instruction that may include video or series of video training tools, that can be delivered live or asynchronously.

Coronal polish:

NEW: This will now be a DA duty. To be eligible, you must take IC and BLS CPR prior to taking the CP course. After passing the 12-hour CP course, the DA can then do CP under direct supervision. *The Alliance was opposed to this duty change and opposed to the deletion of any pre-requisite education and/or work experience prior to qualifying to taking the CP course.*

For the Orthodontic Assistant-

NEW: There will now be no pre-requisite for ANY work experience. A DA can now qualify to take an OA course along with the other 3 requirements for a DA. *Previous language included 12 months work experience or having an RDA or RDAEF to qualify to take the course.*

For the Registered Dental Assistant-

Pathways to qualify for licensure:

Required certificates include: BLS CPR/8-hour Infection Control/2-hour CDPA/Radiation Safety/Coronal Polish/Pit and Fissure Sealants

Same- Graduate from a DBC board approved program. DBC approved programs include all required certificates.

- Work experience- 15 months and 1280 hours/all required certificates

NEW: Will now recognize the DANB CDA, and will need to take all CA certificate courses that include radiation safety, coronal polish, pit and fissure sealants, 8-hour infection control, 2-hour CDPA, BLS CPR.

NEW: Alternative programs in dental assisting (formerly called Blended Education/Work Experience but expanded with the new bill) include CODA accredited or Board of Education approved programs, ROP, CTE programs, or apprenticeship programs registered by the State Department of Education or Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the Department of Industrial Relations in allied dental programs. (500 hours didactic/laboratory and 300 hours clinical chairside)/all required certificates.

NEW: Preceptorship in dental assisting - supervision and hour-based (500 hours clinical in office/300 hours didactic) for a version of on-the-job-training. The dentist is the preceptor, the assistant is the preceptee. The 500 hours of clinical chairside work experience is to be under direct supervision, evaluated and documented by the preceptor who will certify under penalty of perjury the applicant's completion of work experience. The 300 hours of didactic coursework includes hours for required certificate courses and include, but is not limited to, "encompass all aspects of clinical chairside assisting, medical/dental emergencies, first aid and safety precautions, protocols and armamentaria associated with a variety of dental assisting chairside procedures, dental materials, and skill development courses associated with operative and specialty dentistry."

These are only some of the highlights and changes. CDAA will be hosting an informational meeting to discuss this bill in much more detail in the near future.

Please review the bill using the link below.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1453

We need your support and input. Please consider serving on the DBC to fill the newly added RDA position. These positions are appointed by the Governor. Below is a link for an application to apply. <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40app/start.php>

As we continue to utilize our lobbyist, Cody Boyles, CDAA would also appreciate any financial donations to assist in supporting our continued legislative efforts to support dental assisting. Thank you!