AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:761(A)(4) and (C) and 764(A)(2) and (5) and (D) and to repeal R.S. 37:761(D) and 764(E), relative to qualifications for licensure by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry; to provide for licensing examinations for dentists; to provide for citizenship requirements for dental hygienists; to provide for licensing examinations for dental hygienists; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:761(A)(4) and (C) and 764(A)(2) and (5) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§761. Requirements of applicants for dental license

A. The board shall require that every applicant for a dental license shall:

(4) Present satisfactory evidence of having taken and passed an examination in the theory and practice of the science of the profession given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, before being accepted for the regular examination given by the board, or pass an examination given by the board in the theory and practice of the science of dentistry in addition to the regular examination.
given by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry. Upon receipt of information that the
applicant has passed the examination in the theory and practice of the science of the
profession given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, he may
be awarded a dental license, but only when all other requirements for licensure have
been met. If the applicant fails the examination given by the Joint Commission on
National Dental Examinations, he must successfully retake the Louisiana clinical
licensing examination after providing satisfactory evidence of subsequently passing
the examination given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

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C. An applicant who has successfully completed any national, regional, or
independent third-party clinical dental licensing examination approved by the board
that shall include procedures performed on human subjects as part of the assessment
of restorative clinical competencies and who otherwise satisfies all requirements for
a dental license, including satisfactory completion of an examination in
jurisprudence and a background check, may be granted a license by examination by
applying for licensure in Louisiana within three years following the successful
completion of such clinical licensing examination.

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§764. Dental hygienist; application for license

A. Every applicant to be licensed as a dental hygienist shall:

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(2) Be a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States unless otherwise
prohibited by the North American Free Trade Agreement: Be a citizen or possess
valid and current legal authority to reside and work in the United States duly
issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services or its
successor.

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(5) Present satisfactory evidence of having taken and passed an examination
in the theory and practice of the science of the profession given by the Joint
Commission on National Dental Examinations, before being accepted for the regular
examination given by the board or pass an examination given by the board in the
theory and practice of the science of dental hygiene in addition to the regular
examination given by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry. Upon receipt of
information that the applicant has passed the examination in the theory and practice
of the science of the profession given by the Joint Commission on National Dental
Examinations, he may be awarded a dental hygiene license, but only when all other
requirements for licensure have been met. If the applicant fails the examination given
by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, he must successfully
retake the Louisiana clinical licensing examination after providing satisfactory
evidence of subsequently passing the examination given by the Joint Commission
on National Dental Examinations:

* * *

D. An applicant who has successfully completed any national, regional, or
independent third-party clinical dental hygiene licensing examination approved by
the board that shall include procedures performed on human subjects as part of the
assessment of clinical competencies and who otherwise satisfies all requirements for
a dental hygiene license, including satisfactory completion of an examination in
jurisprudence and a background check, may be granted a license by examination by
applying for licensure in Louisiana within three years following the successful
completion of such clinical licensing examination.

Section 2. R.S. 37:761(D) and 764(E) are hereby repealed.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST
SB 324 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Carter

Present law provides for licensure of dentists and dental hygienists by the La. State Board
of Dentistry (LSBD).

Present law provides that applicants for licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist shall
present satisfactory evidence of having taken an examination in the theory and practice of
the profession given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations before being
accepted for the regular examination given by the LSBD, or pass an examination given by

Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in boldface type and underscored are additions.
the LSBD in the theory and practice of the science of profession in addition to the regular examination given by the LSBD. Proposed law removes the requirement for the applicant to be examined by the LSBD and provides for the applicant to present satisfactory evidence of having taken and passed an examination in the theory and practice of the profession given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

Present law provides for the licensure of an applicant who has successfully completed any national, regional, or independent third-party clinical dental or dental hygienist licensing examination approved by the LSBD that includes procedures performed on human subjects as part of the assessment of restorative clinical competencies and who satisfies all other requirements. Proposed law removes the requirement for the examination to include procedures performed on human subjects.

Present law requires an applicant for licensure as a dental hygienist to be a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States unless otherwise prohibited by the North American Free Trade Agreement. Proposed law updates the requirement to be consistent with present law requirements for applicants for licensure as a dentist by requiring the dental hygienist to be a citizen or possess valid and current legal authority to reside and work in the United States duly issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services or its successor.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 37:761(A)(4) and (C) and 764(A)(2) and (5) and (D); repeals R.S. 37:761(D) and 764(E))