

SENATE BILL NO. 324

BY SENATOR CARTER

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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:

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(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~~

