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Dr. Nielson gave a summary about House Bill No. 216 / Senate Bill No. 157 and stated that the reason for the meeting is to see if the board can come to a consensus. The chair asked the board if they listened to Director Sara Chambers present the bill to the senate. Dr. Kelly, Dr. Lucas & Dr. Woller all responded with a yes.

SB157 Section 2. AS 08.01.062(a)(1)&(2); was discussed. Dr. Nielson and others on the board were concerned that the Division would be unable to properly vet the qualifications of applicants from foreign countries and that it may be possible for a temporary license holder to work for almost a year without input from the Board.

Section 2. AS 08.01.062; would allow temporary licenses to those who are awaiting the results of an examination required for licensure. The board was concerned the division would need to gather all the basic information and are they willing and able to do that.

Several members of the Board felt the term “substantially equivalent” dental training around the world cannot be determined by the division alone. The accreditation process done by CODA is stringent and only one school outside the US has achieved it.

The Board felt the portion of HB 216/SB 157 that allows for expedited licensure because of military training would not apply to a dental or dental hygiene licenses because the military does not train dentists or hygienists.

Dr. Woller mentioned that a large omnibus bill like HB216 does not adequately take into consideration the different needs and intricacies of various professions like medicine and dentistry. Dr. Wenzell concurred. While Mr. Joseph Bonnell said Director Chambers let the Board know, they would be able to define aspects of how it applies to dentistry by regulation. The Board, however, questioned were in section 2 that opportunity existed.

Dr. Nielson shared concern the Division would have to do the investigations and information gathering rather than PBIS. The Board was concerned that by eliminating the lower cost courtesy license, it could deter volunteerism in the state.

With regards to Section 6 08.01.077b the Board confirmed with Mr. Bonnell that if the bill passes, even though they would not be able to deny an initial license or renew a license due to criminal investigation prior to a conviction, they would be able to still do a summery suspension. Section 5. AS 08.01.065 was cited and that the board supports the amended regulation to have the Department of Health and Social Services to take over inspections of dental radiological equipment under AS 08.36.075.

Gail Walden had some concerns about practicing under a temporary license while waiting for exam results. She asked who would be responsible for revoking it if the exam was failed, the Dental Board or the Division? Dr. Kelly Lucas supported the military aspect of the bill had real concerns about the broadness of foreign treatment, the rest of the board all felt the same way. Dr. Steven Scheller shared he does not feel the temporary license goes well with the health profession.

Dr. Nielson confirmed that he will be writing a letter with the similar opinions and concerns of the board. Dr. Woller and Dr. Nielson volunteered to represent the board; Dr. Wenzell being the back up.

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Agenda Item 4

Specialty License

Time: 1:57 PM

A draft of the specialty license bill was presented to the board by Dr. Nielson. He notified the board that it is sponsored by Senator Wilson and though it does not have a number yet. It does not mean it is dead. Dr. Nielson tasked Ms. Christianne Carrillo, to upload the letter to the senators on OnBoard.com for the board to review once he finishes writing it.

Agenda Item 5

Adjourn

Time: 2:05 PM

The board finished discussing SB157 early.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Johnathan Woller, seconded by Dr. Dominic Wenzell, and approved unanimously without any objections, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting early.

The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners Chair, Dr. David Nielson, adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Christianne Carrillo
Occupational Licensing Examiner

Approved:



David Nielson, DDS, President

Date: Oct 7th, 2020