

**Senate Executive Departments and Administration  
Committee**  
*Kevin Condict 271-7875*

HB 144-FN, relative to the practice of dental hygiene.

**Hearing Date:** March 26, 2025

**Time Opened:** 9:35 a.m. **Time Closed:** 9:40 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon, Altschiller and Reardon

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires a dental hygienist to be trained and to pass an examination before being permitted to administer local anesthesia.

This bill is at the request of the office of professional licensure and certification and the board of dental examiners.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Grote

Rep. C. McGuire

Rep. Seidel

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Innis

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Carol McGuire (Merr. 27), Carla J. McAlary (NHDA), James J. Bianco (NHDA), Daniel Richardson, and Sen. Debra Altschiller (SD 24).

**Who opposes the bill:** None.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Dir. Deanna Jurius (OPLC).

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Carol McGuire, Merrimack 27**

- Rep. McGuire introduced House Bill 144-FN.
- Rep. McGuire said that HB 144-FN requires a dental hygienist to pass an exam before administering local anesthesia.
- Rep. McGuire explained that this requirement is something that was always assumed, however a formal audit found that it is not codified in statute.
- Rep. McGuire said that this bill is an assurance that untrained people will not be administering anesthesia.

**Deanna Jurius, Executive Director of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification**

- Dir. Jurius stated that she was in attendance to answer any questions.
- Sen. McGough asked what kind of anesthesia this bill allows.
  - o Dir. Jurius answered that she did not know specifically, but it would be local anesthesia.
- Sen. McGough mentioned the ongoing discussion in the dental anesthesia world.
  - o Dir. Jurius said this bill has no connection to that.
- Sen. McGough said that since dental hygienists frequently assist in the anesthesia process, it is connected.
- Sen. McGough said he wondered which anesthesia is the local anesthesia to which the bill refers.
  - o Dir. Jurius explained that someone else in the room would have that answer.

**Angela Boyle, New Hampshire Dental Hygienists' Association**

- Ms. Boyle said that local anesthesia in dentistry refers to minimal or moderate sedation.
- Ms. Boyle said it is common practice for dental hygienists, specifically those graduating now from the New Hampshire Technical Institute, to already have the training as part of their curriculum.
- Ms. Boyle explained that this bill stems from a board audit that was conducted in 2017, where it was found that these provisions were not written into statute.
- Ms. Boyle added that it is important to ensure the qualifications of dental hygienists coming into the state.
- Sen. McGough clarified that the anesthesia is locally injected Novocain.
  - o Ms. Boyle said that is correct.