
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is estimated that
2 one in five hundred children in the State are born with
3 orofacial anomalies such as cleft lip or cleft palate. The
4 legislature further finds that orthodontic services, such as
5 reconstructive surgery, can assist individuals with orofacial
6 anomalies by addressing functional deficiencies in chewing,
7 swallowing, respiration, and speech, as well as unstable or
8 malpositioned oral structures, premature tooth loss, and other
9 health problems. In response to individuals and families who
10 lacked access to orthodontic treatment of orofacial anomalies,
11 Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015 (Act 213), was enacted to
12 require health insurance coverage of medically necessary
13 orthodontic services for the treatment of certain orofacial
14 anomalies. Under the definition of "orthodontic services" in
15 Act 213, the services are required to be provided by a licensed
16 dentist with a certification in orthodontics by the American
17 Board of Orthodontics (ABO).



1 However, the legislature notes that of the approximately
2 forty orthodontists in the State, only eleven are certified by
3 the ABO. Furthermore, of the eleven orthodontists with an ABO
4 certification, only a few have performed the medically necessary
5 orthodontic services for treatment of orofacial anomalies
6 described in sections 431:10A-132 and 432:1-613, Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, and only in limited circumstances. The legislature
8 also notes that a certification by the ABO is voluntary and not
9 required to practice orthodontics in the State.

10 The purpose of this Act is to expand the pool of
11 orthodontists who are eligible to perform orthodontic services
12 for treatment of orofacial anomalies, covered by health
13 insurance, to any licensed dentist who has completed an
14 orthodontic residency program.

15 SECTION 2. Section 431:10A-132, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
16 is amended by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

17 "(h) As used in this section, unless the context clearly
18 requires otherwise:

19 "Orofacial anomalies" means cleft lip or cleft palate and
20 other birth defects of the mouth and face affecting functions
21 such as eating, chewing, speech, and respiration.



1 "Orthodontic services" mean direct or consultative services
2 provided by a licensed dentist [~~with a certification in~~
3 ~~orthodontics by the American Board of Orthodontics.~~] who has
4 completed an orthodontic residency program accredited by the
5 Commission on Dental Accreditation.

6 "Treatment of orofacial anomalies" includes the care
7 prescribed, provided, or ordered for an individual diagnosed
8 with an orofacial anomaly by a craniofacial team that includes a
9 licensed dentist, orthodontist, oral surgeon, and physician, and
10 is coordinated between specialists and providers."

11 SECTION 3. Section 432:1-613, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

13 "(g) As used in this section, unless the context clearly
14 requires otherwise:

15 "Orofacial anomalies" means cleft lip or cleft palate and
16 other birth defects of the mouth and face affecting functions
17 such as eating, chewing, speech, and respiration.

18 "Orthodontic services" means direct or consultative
19 services provided by a licensed dentist [~~with a certification in~~
20 ~~orthodontics by the American Board of Orthodontics.~~] who has



1 completed an orthodontic residency program accredited by the
2 Commission on Dental Accreditation.

3 "Treatment of orofacial anomalies" includes the care
4 prescribed, provided, or ordered for an individual diagnosed
5 with an orofacial anomaly by a craniofacial team that includes a
6 licensed dentist, orthodontist, oral surgeon, and physician, and
7 is coordinated between specialists and providers."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11



Report Title:

Health Care Practitioners; Orthodontic Services; Orofacial Anomalies; Health Insurance; Coverage Services

Description:

Expands the pool of orthodontists who are eligible to perform medically necessary orthodontic services for treatment of certain orofacial anomalies for which health insurance coverage is mandatory. (SD1)

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