

House File 338 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the administration of local anesthesia by
2 dental assistants.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 153.38, Code 2025, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **153.38 Dental assistants — scope of practice.**

4 A registered dental assistant may perform those services of
5 assistance to a licensed dentist as determined by the board by
6 rule. A registered dental assistant with additional education
7 and training, as provided by the board by rule, may become
8 certified to perform expanded functions or become qualified to
9 participate in dental radiography. A registered dental assistant
10 who has successfully completed expanded function training through
11 the university of Iowa college of dentistry or a program
12 certified by the commission on dental accreditation may place
13 dental sealants on teeth. Services performed by a registered
14 dental assistant shall be performed under supervision of a
15 licensed dentist, but this section shall not be construed to
16 authorize a dental assistant to practice dentistry or dental
17 hygiene. The board shall not adopt rules that delegate to a
18 dental assistant ~~the administration of local anesthesia or the~~
19 removal of plaque, stain, calculus, or hard natural material
20 except by toothbrush, floss, or rubber cup coronal polish.
21 Every licensed dentist who utilizes the services of a registered
22 dental assistant for the purpose of assistance in the practice
23 of dentistry shall be responsible for acts delegated to the
24 registered dental assistant. A dentist shall delegate to a
25 registered dental assistant only those acts which are authorized
26 to be delegated to registered dental assistants by the board.

27 **EXPLANATION**

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill strikes a provision prohibiting the dental board
31 from adopting rules to delegate to a dental assistant the
32 administration of local anesthesia.