NEW DENTAL HYGIENE BOARD LAWS FOR 2019

1. The Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) now becomes the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) (Business and Professions Code (B&PC) sections 1901 & 1902).

2. The DHBC’s member make up shall now consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor and two (2) public members appointed by the Legislature: One (1) by the Senate Committee on Rules and One (1) by the Speaker of the Assembly (B&PC section 1903).

3. Extends the DHBC’s next Legislative review period to January 1, 2023 (B&PC section 1901(d)).

4. Requires the DHBC to make recommendations to the Dental Board of California regarding dental hygiene scope of practice issues (B&PC section 1905(a)(8)).

5. Requires applicants applying for licensure with the DHBC to have satisfactorily completed within the preceding two (2) years of the application date, the dental hygiene examination given by WREB or any other clinical or dental hygiene examination approved by the Board (B&PC section 1917(b)).

6. Requires an out-of-state applicant or licensee residing out-of-state for whom an electronic record of the applicant or licensee’s fingerprints do not exist to furnish hard copy fingerprint cards if electronic fingerprint images are not available or shared in their state of residence (B&PC section 1916(a)(2)).

7. The DHBC may conduct periodic surveys, evaluations, and announced and unannounced site visits to existing and new dental hygiene educational programs for registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or a registered dental hygienist in extended functions to ensure continued compliance of educational program requirements and Commission on Dental Accreditation Standards for continued approval (B&PC section 1941.5(b)).

8. The DHBC may place an existing or new dental hygiene educational programs for registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienists in extended functions on probation with terms, issue a citation and fine, or have its approval withdrawn if compliance is not met within reasonable specified timelines (B&PC section 1941.5(c)).

9. The DHBC, or through an authorized representative, may issue a citation containing fines and orders of abatement for any approved dental hygiene
educational program for a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions for any violation of this section or the regulations pursuant to this section (B&PC section 1941.5(d)).

10. The DHBC is now required to conduct random audits of at least five (5) percent of its licensee population each year to ensure compliance of its continuing education requirements for license renewal (B&PC section 1936.1(a)).

11. The DHBC fee for a retired license shall not exceed one-half of the current license renewal fee, which is currently $160 (B&PC section 1944(14)).