AN ACT to repeal 447.01 (8) (a), 447.01 (8) (b), 447.01 (8) (c), 447.01 (8) (d), 447.01 (8) (e), 447.01 (8) (f), 447.01 (8) (g) and 447.01 (8) (h); to renumber and amend 447.01 (8) (intro.); to amend 447.03 (3) (h); and to create 447.01 (8) (bm) of the statutes; relating to: the definition and practice of dentistry for professional licensing purposes.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Generally, under current law, to practice dentistry in Wisconsin, a person must be licensed as a dentist by the Dentistry Examining Board. Current law defines “dentistry” as “the examination, diagnosis, treatment, planning or care of conditions within the human oral cavity or its adjacent tissues and structures.” The definition of dentistry under current law further specifies a number of activities that constitute dentistry, including extracting teeth or correcting their malposition; prescribing or administering drugs, including anesthetics, in conjunction with providing purported dental services; engaging in any of the practices, techniques, or procedures included in the curricula of accredited dental schools; or penetrating, piercing, or severing the tissues within the human oral cavity or adjacent associated structures.

This bill replaces that definition and defines “dentistry” to mean “the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment, including surgery, of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human oral cavity or its adjacent or associated tissues and structures, or of the maxillofacial area, and their impact on the human body.”
The bill also provides that a licensed dentist may not perform dental services that are outside the scope of the dentist’s relevant education, training, and experience, and the bill excludes from the dentistry licensing requirement any physician who is licensed in this state to the extent that the physician is acting within the scope of his or her license. Current law excludes a physician only to the extent that he or she extracts teeth or performs other activities specified by statute.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 447.01 (8) (intro.) of the statutes is renumbered 447.01 (8) (am) and amended to read:

447.01 (8) (am) “Dentistry” means the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment, planning or care including surgery, of diseases, disorders, or conditions within of the human oral cavity or its adjacent or associated tissues and structures. “Dentistry” includes any of the following, or of the maxillofacial area, and their impact on the human body.

SECTION 2. 447.01 (8) (a) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 447.01 (8) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 4. 447.01 (8) (bm) of the statutes is created to read:

447.01 (8) (bm) A dentist licensed under this chapter may not perform dental services that are outside the scope of the dentist’s relevant education, training, and experience.

SECTION 5. 447.01 (8) (c) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 6. 447.01 (8) (d) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 7. 447.01 (8) (e) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 8. 447.01 (8) (f) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 9. 447.01 (8) (g) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 10. 447.01 (8) (h) of the statutes is repealed.
SECTION 11. 447.03 (3) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

447.03 (3) (h) A physician or surgeon licensed in this state who extracts teeth, or operates upon the palate or maxillary bones and investing tissues, or who administers anesthetics, either general or local under subch. II of ch. 448 acting within the scope of his or her license.

(END)