March 16, 2017 –Introduced by Senators HARSDORE, CARPENTER, VUKMIR, MOULTON, JOHNSON, MARKLEIN, WIRCH, OLSEN, BEWLEY, DARLING, KAPENGA, C. LARSON, L. TAYLOR, TESTIN, RINGHAND, WANGGAARD, HANSEN and RISER, cosponsored by Representatives BERNIER, SANFELIPPO, GOYKE, KREMER, MURPHY, JACQUE, SKOWRONSKI, C. TAYLOR, KOLSTE, SUBECK, NYGREN, ROHRKASTE, TAUCHEN, PETRYK, GANNON, RiemER, KOOYENGA, CONSIDINE, E. BROOKS, SARGENT, SPIROS, MACCO, SCHEA, R. BROOKS, OHNSTAD, SINICKI, JARCHOW, HORLACHER, ANDERSON, BILLINGS, TITTL, MILROY, STAFSHOLT, DOYLE, ALLEN, TUSLER, THIESFELDT, TRANEL, SUMMERFIELD, KESSLER, BORN, RIPP, MURSAU, BOWEN, FELKOWSKI and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.

AN ACT to amend 447.06 (2) (a) 4. and 447.06 (2) (b) and (c) (intro.); and to create 447.06 (2) (a) 9. of the statutes; relating to: the practice of dental hygienists.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill expands the circumstances under which dental hygienists are permitted to practice dental hygiene. Under the bill, dental hygienists are allowed to practice in the following settings without the authorization and presence of a licensed dentist: 1) federal, state, county, or municipal correctional or detention facilities and facilities established to provide care for terminally ill patients; 2) charitable institutions open to the general public or members of a religious sect or order; 3) nonprofit home health care agencies; 4) nonprofit dental care programs serving primarily indigent, economically disadvantaged, or migrant worker populations; 5) nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and hospitals; and 6) facilities that are primarily operated for the purpose of providing outpatient medical services.

Current law does not specifically authorize dental hygienists to practice in facilities operated primarily to provide outpatient medical services. Also, current law does not permit dental hygienists to practice in settings 1) through 5) unless a licensed dentist who is present authorizes the services or the services are performed under a written or oral prescription and certain other conditions are met.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
SENATE BILL 114

SECTION 1. 447.06 (2) (a) 4. of the statutes is amended to read:

447.06 (2) (a) 4. For a facility, as defined in s. 50.01 (1m), a hospital, as defined in s. 50.33 (2), a state or federal prison, county jail or other federal, state, county or municipal correctional or detention facility, or a facility established to provide care for terminally ill patients.

SECTION 2. 447.06 (2) (a) 9. of the statutes is created to read:

447.06 (2) (a) 9. At a facility, as defined in s. 50.01 (1m), a hospital, as defined in s. 50.33 (2), or a facility that is primarily operated to provide outpatient medical services.

SECTION 3. 447.06 (2) (b) and (c) (intro.) of the statutes are amended to read:

447.06 (2) (b) A dental hygienist may practice dental hygiene or perform remediable procedures under par. (a) 1., 4., 6., 7. or 8. only as authorized by a dentist who is licensed to practice dentistry under this chapter and who is present in the facility in which those practices or procedures are performed, except as provided in par. (c).

(c) (intro.) A dental hygienist may practice dental hygiene or perform remediable procedures under par. (a) 1., 4., 6., 7. or 8. if a dentist who is licensed to practice dentistry under this chapter is not present in the facility in which those practices or procedures are performed only if all of the following conditions are met:

(END)