



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2007 Wisconsin Act 31
[2007 Assembly Bill 153]

Continuing Education for Dentists

Wisconsin Act 31 states that a person is not eligible for renewal of a license to practice dentistry unless the person has taught, attended, or otherwise completed 30 credit hours of continuing education related to the practice of dentistry or medicine during the two-year period immediately preceding the license renewal date. Of the 30 hours, not less than 25 credit hours of instruction must be in clinical dentistry or clinical medicine. In addition, not more than four of the 30 hours may be from teaching. In order to qualify for credit, the continuing education must be one of the following: (1) sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental or medical professional organization; or (2) a college-level course that is offered by a post-secondary institution accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation or a successor agency, or by another recognized accrediting body.

The continuing education requirement does not apply to an applicant for renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after initial licensure. Also, credit hours completed before the two-year period immediately preceding license renewal may not be applied to fulfill the requirement. In addition, the Dentistry Examining Board may waive the continuing education requirement if the board finds that exceptional circumstances such as prolonged illness, disability, or other similar circumstances have prevented a dentist from meeting the requirement.

The Act requires that a licensed dentist must keep a written record detailing each credit completed and maintain the written record for not less than six years. The Dentistry Examining Board is given authority to require applicants for renewal of a license to submit proof of compliance with the continuing education requirement. In addition, the board is given the authority to promulgate rules governing compliance with the continuing education requirement.

Effective Date: December 4, 2007.

Prepared by: Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney

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RNS:jb:ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.