

Your Advocate

on State Board of Dentistry Issues



Thanks to your membership, PDA is able to monitor and influence State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) regulations as they are written and moving through the regulatory process.

PDA advocates on dentists' behalf on all SBOD issues, including:

- Monitoring proposals for alternative workforce models that conflict with ADA & PDA policy in favor of the dental team model.
- Enacting scope of practice changes that put patient safety first.
- Ensuring that licensees' disciplinary charges are applied judiciously.
- Providing uniform standards & curriculum so graduates of all dental-related programs acquire the same skill sets.
- Advocating for reasonable regulations for licensees who have permits to administer anesthesia, sedation and nitrous oxide.
- Guaranteeing that regulations allow for dentists only to read and interpret radiographs so that patients receive an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan.
- Advocating for reasonable enforcement of professional misconduct regulations.
- Advocating for dentists to have flexibility in determining which continuing education courses to take in order to fulfill the SBOD's requirement, so that they may take courses that best suit their clinical and practice needs.
- Safeguarding those patients who are treated in public health settings by non-dentists.
- Enacting regulations for non-traditional dental practice models.
- Supporting policy or regulations that would prohibit teeth whitening businesses operated by non-dental professionals.
- Advocating for reasonable licensure and permit fees for dentists and their staff.

The Pennsylvania SBOD licenses all dentists and hygienists and certifies all expanded function dental assistants in Pennsylvania. The SBOD also issues the permits to allow dentists to administer general anesthesia and deep sedation (unrestricted permit), conscious sedation (permit I) and nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia (permit II).

The SBOD is a separate and distinct entity within the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA), authorized by the state legislature to regulate the dental community. It is comprised of seven dentists, one hygienist, two public members, an attorney from the Attorney General's Office and the BPOA Commissioner, who oversees all 27 licensing boards in Pennsylvania.

The SBOD is responsible for issuing licenses and certificates; issuing anesthesia permits; promulgating regulations pertaining to scope of practice, misconduct, advertising, continuing education, etc.; and, levying fines and penalties when licensees commit infractions.