

DANB's compilation of state dental assisting requirements is one of the most comprehensive resources available on this topic. The updates below highlight dental assisting state legislative and regulatory changes from April to July 2026.

Alabama

Effective April 13, 2026, the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners expanded the scope of allowable duties for dental assistants to include performing coronal polishing and the placement of pit and fissure sealants under the direct supervision of a duly licensed dentist.

Connecticut

Effective Oct. 1, 2026, a dentist who delegates the taking of dental x-rays by the dental assistant will assume responsibility for the procedure but need not remain on-site in the dental office or treatment facility.

Florida

Effective April 26, 2026, the Florida Board of Dentistry amended rules to add tasks delegable to dental assistants to include polishing clinical crowns using a rotary instrument if a hygienist is in the office when the polishing occurs; removing implant hybrid prosthetic dentures with a string attached to the removing tool at all times; removing healing abutments and placing scan body on the implant in order to be able to perform intra oral digital scanning; and placing intermediate material that serves as a barrier between the implant screw and restoration of the access screw of the implant restoration. The new rules also remove all references to amalgam restorations.

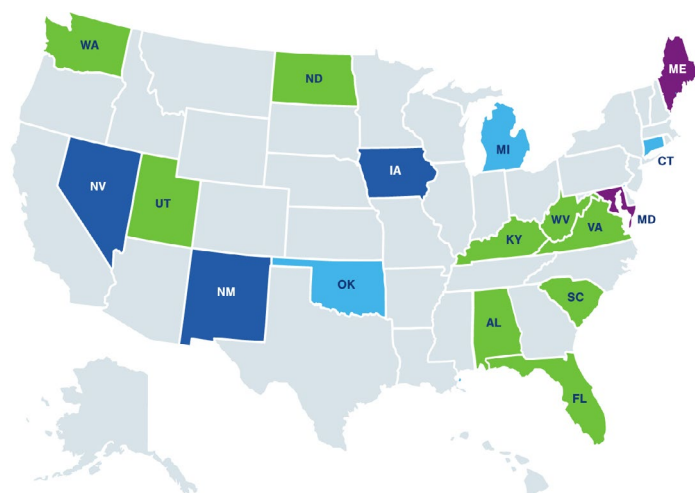
Iowa

In Iowa, regulations effective June 3 allow dental assistants to practice without registration if they complete a specified term of practical training, which includes jurisprudence and infection control, under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

Kentucky

On April 13, 2026, Gov. Andy Beshear signed HB776, which allows dental assistants to utilize a dental hygiene cordless polisher in addition to the use of a rubber cap attached to a slow-speed rotary dental handpiece. The bill also removes language that would prohibit dental assistants from using any instrumentation that may elicit the removal of calcareous deposits or accretions on the crowns and roots of teeth and the making of final impressions from which casts are made to construct any dental restoration. Additionally, the bill allows the Board of Dentistry to designate funds to administer scholarships or education loan repayment assistance to qualified individuals.

Also signed in April 2026, HB459 will require the licensing authorities of healthcare occupations to collect workforce participation data during the annual, biennial, or triennial licensure renewal process. The new process must be implemented by Jan. 1, 2028.



Categories

- **Expanded functions** — Additional functions for DAs (9 states)
- **Implementing or modifying requirements** — Changes to dental assistant requirements (3 states)
- **Supervision** — Changes to supervision levels for DAs (3 states)
- **Reporting** — Reporting-related requirements that involve dental assistants (2 states)

Maine

On April 13, Gov. Janet Mills signed HP1420/LD2105, updating state laws regarding who is required to report suspected child abuse or neglect, and clarifying the definition of a “health care practitioner” to include a dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant.

Maryland

Effective Jan. 1, 2027, a new law mandates criminal history record checks for individuals seeking or renewing licenses and certificates in various health occupations, including dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assisting.

Michigan

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs amended rule language July 23 to allow a dental therapist to delegate functions to a registered dental assistant or unlicensed dental auxiliary; require an unlicensed dental auxiliary to complete one additional hour of training in infection control, which must include the subject of water line maintenance; require a delegating dentist to keep proof that an unlicensed dental auxiliary has completed the education required to perform functions under delegation; allow the measurement of blood glucose to be delegated to a registered dental assistant or unlicensed dental auxiliary; and clarify that unlicensed dental auxiliaries must identify themselves as unlicensed dental auxiliaries to telehealth patients.

Nevada

Effective July 1, the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners approved amendments to the state Expanded Function Dental Assistant license. The updates specify the scope of practice, continuing education, and renewal and reinstatement requirements, while expanding eligibility criteria to recognize DANB’s CDA, CPFDA, and CRFDA exams.

New Mexico

At its Feb. 20 meeting, the New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care approved rule revisions outlining two pathways to dental radiography certification: passing DANB’s Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam or completing a board-approved course with an integrated exam (both valid 24 months). The new rules, effective Apr. 21, 2026, also add an ethics/jurisprudence course requirement for EFDA/CDHC renewal.

North Dakota

Effective April 1, 2026, amended state rules allow an unregistered dental assistant enrolled in a board-approved qualified dental assistant program and working under the direct supervision of a dentist to perform the duties of a qualified dental assistant. The change also expands the duties of a registered dental assistant under the general supervision of a dentist to include taking final impressions, holding a curing light for a dental procedure, and polishing the coronal surfaces of the teeth by use of air polishing.

Oklahoma

On May 5, Gov. Kevin Stitt signed HB3934, which allows dental assistants to perform certain procedures under general supervision — specifically, to assist a hygienist with procedures the hygienist can perform under general supervision and to complete radiation safety under general supervision.

South Carolina

Signed by Gov. Henry McMaster May 15, H4189 allows dental assistants to perform oral screenings utilizing the Department of Public Health and Environmental Control approved screening system in school and public health settings.

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Utah

To implement changes to 2025 legislation (HB372), new administrative rules effective July 8 define the requirements and scope of practice for two new expanded function certifications for dental auxiliaries. Under indirect supervision, eligible dental assistants and dental hygienists may perform:

- Placement of direct restorations
- Removal of coronal adhesive

Virginia

Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed HB 970/SB 178 into law April 9, 2026. The new law, which goes into effect July 1, 2026, allows a Dental Assistant I or II with 1,800 hours of clinical experience to perform supragingival scaling and coronal polishing under dentist supervision.

Washington

Effective May 30, 2026, dental assistants may apply silver diamine fluoride to children in school-based and school-linked programs under the general supervision of a state licensed dentist.

West Virginia

Rule changes effective April 21, 2026, permit the use of dental retraction materials other than a packing cord for crown impressions to ensure flexibility in the standard and allow for the adoption of current and future innovations in retraction materials.

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