
HOUSE BILL 2531

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Caldier, Leavitt, Harris, and Cody

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting patients from certain unsafe dental
2 practices; and adding a new section to chapter 18.32 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) A treating dentist shall, prior to the initial diagnosis and
7 correction of malpositions of human teeth or initial use of
8 orthodontic appliances, perform an in-person examination that
9 includes the review of the patient's most recent diagnostic digital
10 or conventional radiographs or other equivalent bone imaging suitable
11 for orthodontia. New radiographs or other equivalent bone imaging
12 must be ordered if deemed appropriate by the treating dentist.

13 (2) A patient receiving dental services through telemedicine must
14 be provided with the name, telephone number, practice address, and
15 Washington state license number of the dentist who will be involved
16 in the provision of the services. The information must be provided
17 both prior to the provision of services and whenever requested by the
18 patient. For purposes of this subsection, "telemedicine" means the
19 delivery of health care services through the use of interactive audio
20 and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the

1 patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of
2 diagnosis, consultation, or treatment.

3 (3) A provider of dental services may not require a patient to
4 sign an agreement that limits the patient's ability to file a
5 complaint with the commission.

6 (4) Violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct
7 for purposes of chapter 18.130 RCW.

--- END ---