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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4484 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Alma Stallworth

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health Policy

Date Completed: 10-28-87

RATIONALE

In listing the specialty fields in dentistry, the Michigan Public Health Code refers to "pedodontics" and "oral surgery". To reflect the current practice of these dental specialties and to clear up confusion over what these specialties entail, new designations have evolved for these specialties. "Pedodontics" now is called "pediatric dentistry" and "oral surgery" is referred to as "oral and maxillofacial surgery". Some people believe that references in the Public Health Code should be updated to conform with terminology currently in use.

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

Fiscal Analyst: L. Burghardt

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to change the terminology that describes two dental specialties. "Pedodontics" and "pedodontist" would be changed to "pediatric dentistry" and "pediatric dentist". "Oral surgery" and "oral surgeon" would be changed to "oral and maxillofacial surgery" and "oral and maxillofacial surgeon".

MCL 333.16263, 333.16608, and 333.16624

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

The bill would bring terminology in the Public Health Code that describes two dental specialties into conformity with terminology used by State and national dental organizations, hospitals, and insurance carriers. The bill would not change the scope of practice of these dental specialties, but would reflect what currently is taking place in these dental fields.

Supporting Argument

Consumers reportedly have confused pedodontists, who provide dental care to children, with periodontists, who specialize in treatment of the bone and tissue that support teeth, and podiatrists, who are doctors that specialize in foot disorders. As a result, the pedodontics profession has changed its name from "pedodontists" to "pediatric dentists". Furthermore, oral surgeons, who perform reconstructive surgery to the jaw and facial area as well as extract teeth, have changed their title to reflect their practice and now are called "oral and maxillofacial surgeons". Reference to these specialties has been updated by dental organizations and persons currently practicing these specialties. The Public Health Code should be updated to reflect these changes.

H.B. 4484 (10-28-87)