

By: (sent by Al Campbell)

No: T017

Committee: (Health and Human Services) _____

RESOLUTION

Establish the Practice of Denturism in Texas

A RESOLUTION TO: Change the Texas Dental Code to allow licensed Denturists to practice Denturism.

WHEREAS: Denturists are trained in fabricating, supplying, altering and repairing of prosthetic dental appliances. They are also trained to take impressions and bite restrictions and make final adjustments. However, the current dental code does not allow them to take impressions and make final adjustments. "Denturism" is the term that applies to the total prosthetic dental appliance process; and

WHEREAS: Denture appliances are unnecessarily expensive, in part due to the requirement that dentists are unnecessarily involved in the final process of making impressions and adjustments. Many seniors, particularly those with low incomes, are not able to afford well fitting dental appliances and thus suffer from poor nutrition and other health problems; and

WHEREAS: The quality and cost of denture appliance services will be improved by allowing Denturists to practice Denturism. Canada has adopted the Denturism program and the price of dentures has been reduced by more than 50%. In addition, the number of individuals seeking prosthetic treatment or adjustment has increased dramatically as a result of the cost reduction; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED: That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 7th Texas Legislature to change the Texas Dental Code to allow for the practice of Denturism.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2004, by

the _____ Committee,

Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2004, by

by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Speaker

ATTEST:

Secretary