

NJDA Lobbying Effort Saves Dentists at Least \$10,000 Annually

Legislation is advancing in New Jersey that, if enacted, would have required dental practices in New Jersey to be licensed as an Ambulatory Surgical Center by the NJ Department of Health and subject to those compliance standards, which substantially differ from those required presently by the NJ State Board of Dentistry. If enacted, as initially drafted, New Jersey would be just the second state to require such a taxing law, but the first state with such significant fees and compliance requirements.

New Jersey licensure fees for Ambulatory Surgical Centers presently cost \$4,000. The biennial inspection fee is \$2,000. Even worse, dental offices would have been subjected to the same compliance standards as hospital operating rooms and ambulatory surgical centers – a significant deviation from the current NJ State Board of Dentistry standards and those found in virtually every other state in America. Should this legislation be enacted, it could have fundamentally ended the practice of dentistry in our state as the cost of compliance would be too much for most practices to bear. This would jeopardize access to care as well as cause significant job loss in the sector.

Fortunately, through the strong lobbying efforts of the New Jersey Dental Association, the legislation was amended to exempt all dental practices from Department of Health licensure and its corresponding compliance requirements. The NJDA estimates this saved each dental practice an annual cost savings of more than \$10,000 a year, and in many instances, many thousands of dollars more.

Your membership in the NJDA and your strong support of the NJ Dental Political Action Committee (NJDPAC) helped make this lobbying effort possible. Membership is essential to fighting back these potentially catastrophic bills. And, the NJDPAC contributions as essential to helping build the needed relationships for elected officials to know dentistry and hear its voice.

If you have not contributed to NJDPAC, please do so by clicking [here](#). Our success depends on it!

If you know a non-member, get them to join by sending them this [link](#). Our strength is in our numbers!

The future of dentistry in New Jersey depends on you!

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