

2023 Final Legislative Update

The 2023 General Assembly adjourned for the year after working into the wee hours of the morning on April 28. It was a positive legislative session for the dental hygiene profession, and for the first time in recent history (maybe ever) a dental hygienist, Rep. Lindsay Patterson (R-Brookville) was elected to the House of Representatives.

HB 1113 passed unanimously and removed the requirement that dentists and hygienists pay a \$20 compliance fund fee when renewing their license. The legislation also specified that the money in the fund can only be used for the administration and enforcement concerning the regulation of dentists and hygienists.

SB 4, a comprehensive bill expanding public health services in Indiana, contained language removing the requirement that a supervising dentist in an Access Practice Agreement be physically located in a county adjacent to where APA services are being provided. Additionally, the Indiana Department of Health is working with IDHA to expand the use of APAs in underserved areas of the state.

And the Family and Social Services Administration, under which the Indiana Medicaid program falls, outlined plans for rate increases and a new rate review process for all Medicaid providers. Dentists can expect an increase for treating Medicaid patients beginning in January of 2024. Specifics of the increase are currently in the works and will be released as they become available.