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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

CHAIRMAN  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE

4

*Original: 2396*

February 8, 2005

Ronald F. Sicilia, D.M.D.  
President  
Pennsylvania Society of Oral  
and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Charles R. Weber, D.M.D.  
President  
Pennsylvania Dental Association

Robert T. Lindner, D.D.S.  
Director, Anesthesia Services  
Pennsylvania Society of Oral  
and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Philip T. Siegel, D.D.S.  
Member, Council on Government Relations  
Pennsylvania Dental Association

Re: Meeting with Commissioner Merenda, members of the House Professional Licensure Committee, PSMOS, and PDA regarding implementation of Act 135 of 2002

Dear Drs. Sicilia, Weber, Lindner, and Seigel:

On behalf of the House Professional Licensure Committee, we wish to thank you for meeting with us and members of the committee to discuss the implementation of Act 135 of 2002 earlier today.

As Chairman Reiger and I stated at the meeting, the committee has decided to defer to Commissioner Merenda's judgment that temporary permits should be issued pursuant to Act 135. Accordingly, dentists who administer anesthesia will have an additional year to secure the statutorily-mandated clinical evaluations and office inspections, as well as the continuing education requirements, among other items.

As Commissioner Merenda stated, the permits will be valid for a one year period not to exceed April 1, 2006, and are not renewable. The commissioner has asked that we re-iterate the need for dentists, whether or not they belong to your respective organizations, to contact the

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State Board of Dentistry to apply for these permits. Our understanding is that a dentist may apply online ([www.dos.state.pa.us./dentist](http://www.dos.state.pa.us./dentist)) or call the board directly, 717-783-7162.

We ask that you do all that you can to inform the dental community of the availability of temporary permits and the need to comply with all of the requirements of Act 135 by April 1, 2006.

Additionally, just as we set forth in the meeting, the House Professional Licensure Committee seeks the following:

- (1) A written report, every 60 days, sent to Chairman Rieger and me, regarding the number of clinical evaluations and office inspections conducted during that 60 day period and the number that have yet to be conducted so that all permit holders have satisfied the statutory requirement of a clinical evaluation and office inspection. A copy should be sent to Commissioner Merenda.
- (2) Your best efforts to work with Commissioner Merenda with respect to the temporary permit regime and the clinical evaluation/office inspection regime, as well as the timely implementation of Act 135. As the commissioner asked, we also ask that the inspectors provide the commissioner and the board with the results of the clinical evaluations and office inspections in a timely manner.
- (3) Timely communication with Chairman Rieger and me, in writing, regarding any significant problems with respect to the implementation of Act 135. As stated at the meeting, we are hopeful that issuing temporary permits for an additional year will allow all dentists to comply with Act 135 while providing patients access to needed healthcare. If something significant goes awry, the committee needs time to respond, especially if the committee feels the need to respond legislatively.

Once again, we thank you for meeting with us and the many members who were in attendance. We are heartened by the fact that Dr. Lindner assured us that, barring anything unforeseen, all clinical evaluations and office inspections will be completed by April 1, 2006.

We are hopeful that working together, we can assure access to quality healthcare on the part of Pennsylvania citizens while, at the same time, assuring the safety of those patients.

Very truly yours,



Thomas P. Gannon  
Majority Chairman



William W. Rieger  
Minority Chairman

**Cc: Honorable Basil L. Merenda  
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and  
Occupational Affairs**

**Eric P. Battisti, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Department of State**

**Lisa Burns, Board Administrator  
State Board of Dentistry**

**Cynthia K. Montgomery, Counsel  
State Board of Dentistry**

**Camille Kostelac-Cherry  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pennsylvania Dental Association**

**Thomas Weber, Esq.  
Goldberg Katzman**

**Jay Layman  
Capitol Associates**

**Beth Zampogna  
Capitol Associates**

**Gail Reinard  
Wodjak Associates**

**Members, House Professional Licensure Committee**