

House Committee Passes Dental Amalgam Legislation

On February 28, 2007 the Vermont House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee voted out a revised dental amalgam bill, H.121. The bill received unanimous support in Committee though 2 members were absent.

The revised bill does not contain a specific ban on the use or placement of amalgam. Rather, the Committee has adopted language that will require the Department of Health to develop a brochure and poster on restorative materials. The bill also contains a requirement that a dentist, prior to placing amalgam, obtain the written consent of the patient. That informed consent, also to be developed by the Health Department, will have specific language on children and pregnant women and also requires that the dentist provide the patient with the brochure. Finally, the bill contains the from the version as introduced. The dental society believes that some of findings and report are selective and misleading.

Because the bill has both health implications and practice act implications, the bill is now expected to be referred to either the House Human Services Committee or the House Government Operations Committee. It will likely go to both of those Committees but the order is not clear at this point. Each of these Committee will have the opportunity to make revisions to this bill based upon testimony and their desires. In fact, the Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee sent the bill along knowing it will receive additional review by those Committees.

The dental society continues to oppose this bill and we will be sending you a more detailed report on this issue early next week.

The Senate bill on this topic, S.81, has yet to be scheduled for testimony.