CHAPTER_______

1 AN ACT concerning

   African-American Male Oral Cancer Initiative Oral Health Programs -
   Reducing Oral Cancer Mortality

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of Oral Health in the Department of Health
   and Mental Hygiene to establish an African-American Male Oral Cancer
   Initiative; requiring the Office of Oral Health to perform certain functions under
   the Initiative to increase prevention, detection, and treatment of oral cancer
   among African-American men; requiring the Department to obtain funding for
   the Initiative from the Cigarette Restitution Fund; and generally relating to the

11 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to
   establish the Oral Health Program to prevent and detect oral cancer in the State
   with a certain focus and intent; targeting the program to the needs of high-risk
   underserved populations; requiring the Secretary, in consultation with certain
   providers, to develop and implement certain programs to train health care
   providers to screen and refer patients with oral cancers and to promote certain
   smoking cessation programs; requiring the Secretary to establish the Prevent
   Oral Cancer Pilot Program to screen, refer, and treat certain adults; providing
   that the pilot program may be undertaken in conjunction with certain other
   initiatives; requiring the Secretary to evaluate the pilot program and to submit
   certain reports annually to the Governor and the General Assembly; requiring
   the Oral Health Advisory Committee to make certain recommendations;,
   providing for the funding of certain programs established under the provisions
   of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and
   generally relating to the Oral Health Program and the Prevent Oral Cancer
   Pilot Program.
2 HOUSE BILL 1184

BY adding to
Article - Health - General
Section 18-305 18-801 through 18-803 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8.
Oral Health Program"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

WHEREAS, Between 1973 and 1992, the incidence of oral cancer in the United
States increased 21.1% among African Americans as opposed to 8.3% in whites, while
the mortality rate decreased in the general population but increased 10.9% in
African-American males;

WHEREAS, In Maryland the mortality rate for oral cancer among African
Americans is 75% higher than among African Americans in the United States as a
whole;

WHEREAS, Early detection is associated with longer survival; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco use is implicated in 75% of all oral cancers in the United
States; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

 Article - Health - General

18-305.

(A) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL ESTABLISH AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ORAL CANCER INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE SCREENING, EARLY DIAGNOSIS, AND
TREATMENT OF ORAL CANCER IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN.

(B) UNDER THE INITIATIVE, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH, IN
CONSULTATION WITH DENTAL PROVIDERS SERVING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN,
SHALL:

(1) INVESTIGATE THE PREVALENCE OF ORAL CANCER AMONG
AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN AND IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS THAT MAY EXPLAIN THE
CORRELATION;

(2) DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER STRATEGIES TO
PREVENT THE DISEASE AND REDUCE THE RISK FACTORS AMONG
AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN;

(3) EXPAND MEDICAL COVERAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF ORAL CANCER
SCREENING AND EARLY DETECTION METHODS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN;

(4) INCREASE ACCESS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN TO ORAL CANCER
TREATMENT; AND
SUBTITLE 8. ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM.

18-801.

THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE THE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO PREVENT AND DETECT ORAL CANCER IN THE STATE, WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, WITH THE INTENT TO REDUCE ORAL CANCER MORTALITY.

18-802.

(A) IN CONSULTATION WITH DENTAL CARE PROVIDERS, THE SECRETARY SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ONGOING ORAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE:

(1) TO TRAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO SCREEN AND PROPERLY REFER PATIENTS WITH ORAL CANCERS; AND

(2) TO PROMOTE SMOKING CESSATION WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

(B) THE PROGRAMS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL ADDRESS:

(1) THE RISK FACTORS THAT LEAD TO ORAL CANCER;

(2) THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ORAL CANCER;

(3) THE HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS THAT MAY LEAD TO ORAL CANCER; AND

(4) THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SCREENING TO DETECT ORAL CANCER.

18-803.

ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE SECRETARY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Secretary shall establish the Prevent Oral Cancer Pilot Program;

(b) The pilot program shall provide:
Appropriate screening, referral, and treatment for high-risk underserved adults for whom dental services are not ordinarily available; and

An evaluation of the pilot program, including the collection of relevant data;

The pilot program may be undertaken in conjunction with other initiatives related to the prevention and detection of cancer in the State; and

On or before December 1 of each year, as part of the report required under § 18-803 of the Health - General Article, the Secretary shall submit a report on the status of the pilot program and any findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the pilot program.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any programs established under the provisions of this Act shall be funded as provided for in the State budget.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the existing Oral Health Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary shall recommend to the Secretary the best methods to promote and implement a strategy to decrease the oral cancer mortality and to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2000. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 3 months and, at the end of September 30, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.