

HOUSE BILL 799

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CF SB 703

By: **Delegates Tarrant, Cullison, Glass, Ivey, A. Kelly, and Pena-Melnyk**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2014
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Children’s Dental Health Month

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as Children’s Dental Health Month; and generally relating to Children’s Dental Health Month.

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions

Section 7–502 through 7–505, respectively

to be Section 7–503 through 7–506, respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter _____ (H.B. 270) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions

Section 7–502

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter _____ (H.B. 270) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Dental disease is the most common chronic disease among children in Maryland – four times more common than asthma and childhood obesity; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, Students nationwide miss more than 52 million hours of school and employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental disease; and

WHEREAS, Dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in Maryland, with 31% of third grade children having experienced dental decay; and

WHEREAS, Greater access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of preventive and restorative dental services; and

WHEREAS, Preventive treatments, including fluoride and sealants, are proven to reduce the risk of dental decay in school-age children; and

WHEREAS, Low-income children suffer more tooth decay than their more affluent peers; and

WHEREAS, 30% of postpartum women reported that it had been between 1 and 5 years since their last teeth cleaning; and

WHEREAS, Maryland residents deserve access to high-quality oral health care; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-502 through 7-505, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-503 through 7-506, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

7-502.

THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.