

SENATE BILL 284

J1

8lr1651

By: **Senators Middleton and Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, beginning on a
4 certain date and subject to certain limitations, to provide certain dental coverage for
5 certain adults; repealing a certain contingency; requiring the Maryland Department
6 of Health, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to study certain matters and
7 make certain recommendations relating to adult dental coverage; requiring the
8 Department to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to dental
10 coverage under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Health – General
13 Section 15–103(a)(2)(ii) and (x)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Health – General
18 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xiii)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)
21 (As enacted by Chapter 721 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017)

22 BY repealing
23 Chapter 721 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017
24 Section 3

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
26 Chapter 721 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017
27 Section 4

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 15–103.

5 (a) (2) The Program:

6 (ii) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget,
7 comprehensive medical and other health care services for all eligible pregnant women
8 whose family income is at or below 250 percent of the poverty level, as permitted by the
9 federal law;

10 (x) Subject to the limitations of the State budget, and as permitted
11 by federal law:

12 1. Shall provide comprehensive medical care and other
13 health care services for former foster care adolescents who, on their 18th birthday, were in
14 foster care under the responsibility of the State and are not otherwise eligible for Program
15 benefits;

16 2. May provide comprehensive medical care and other health
17 care services for former foster care adolescents who, on their 18th birthday, were in foster
18 care under the responsibility of any other state or the District of Columbia; and

19 3. May provide comprehensive dental care for former foster
20 care adolescents who, on their 18th birthday, were in foster care under the responsibility
21 of the State;

22 (xiii) Beginning on January 1, [2019, may] **2020, SHALL** provide,
23 subject to the limitations of the State budget, and as permitted by federal law, **LIMITED**
24 dental [services] **COVERAGE** for adults [whose]:

25 **1. WHOSE** annual household income is at or below 133
26 percent of the poverty level; **AND**

27 **2. WHO DO NOT RECEIVE COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL**
28 **COVERAGE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) OR (X) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

29 **Chapter 721 of the Acts of 2017**

30 [SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

1 (a) Section 2 of this Act is contingent on the Maryland Dental Action Coalition
2 determining, as part of the findings of the study authorized under Section 1(a) of this Act, that
3 it is advisable to expand the benefits provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program
4 to include dental services for adults whose annual household income is at or below 133 percent
5 of the poverty level.

6 (b) If the report authorized under Section 1(c)(1) of this Act does not include the
7 finding described in subsection (a) of this section, Section 2 of this Act shall be null and void
8 without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.]

9 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That[, subject to Section 3 of this Act,]
10 this Act shall take effect June 1, 2017.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

12 (a) The Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the Maryland
13 Dental Action Coalition, the Maryland State Dental Association, the Maryland Dental
14 Hygiene Association, and other interested stakeholders, shall study and recommend ways
15 to structure adult dental coverage in order to balance fiscal constraints with meeting the
16 dental care needs of adult Maryland Medical Assistance Program enrollees.

17 (b) As part of the study, the Department shall consider and recommend ways to:

18 (1) structure dental coverage to improve health outcomes;

19 (2) implement utilization management tools, such as spending caps and
20 cost-sharing requirements, to manage overall Program costs and to encourage participants
21 to use preventive services within a dental home;

22 (3) if dental coverage is implemented through managed care organizations,
23 incentivize managed care organizations to continue to invest in robust dental coverage
24 packages beyond the minimums established by the Department;

25 (4) build capacity among safety net providers and private practices; and

26 (5) increase provider participation in the Program by streamlining
27 administrative processes, including processes for provider enrollment in the Program.

28 (c) On or before January 1, 2019, the Department shall report its findings and
29 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
30 Government Article, the General Assembly.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2018.