

2024 MCHS SB 799 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Paddy

Position: FAV



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	SB 799
Title:	Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults
Hearing Date:	February 13, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports Senate Bill 799 - *Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults*. This bill permits more dental patients to be treated in public health dental clinics, and federally qualified health centers by limited licensed dentists and the bill provides these limited licensed dentists a pathway to a general license to practice in Maryland.

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) is a network of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that serve underserved communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas across Maryland. FQHC dental clinics are major components of the dental safety net system, providing essential oral healthcare services to underserved populations. Building and expanding dental clinics and retaining dental providers within existing FQHCs is an important strategy to bridge the gap between medical and dental services offered by FQHCs.

At the start of 2023 Maryland Medicaid expanded to cover adult dental services for over 800,000 Marylanders. This bill removes the pediatric dentistry restriction and would permit an internationally trained dentist to treat both adults and children on Medicaid and would provide a pathway to a general or unrestricted license in Maryland.

MCHS supports this bill because it will help federally qualified health centers recruit and retain dental providers and meet the needs of our patients. We request a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

2024 MDAC SB 799 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Paddy

Position: FAV



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215
Columbia, Maryland 21046
www.mdac.us

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: SB 799 - Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults

Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) supports SB 799 - *Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults*. MDAC is a leading oral health policy and advocacy organization who works to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care. This bill updates the work requirements for limited license dentists to recognize that dental practices of federally qualified health centers and local health departments provide services to both children and adults with a large focus on Medicaid participants.

Currently, internationally trained dentists have a lengthy passage to obtaining a license in Maryland. In addition to completing educational requirements at an accredited dental school in the U.S. or Canada, they must take several additional steps including the completion of a two-year work agreement at a federally qualified health center or local health department.

Current law specifically requires that the 2-year work requirement be for pediatric patients. When this law was initially enacted in 2003, Maryland had just established the HealthChoice Program, and as required under federal law, the program included dental coverage for children. It appears that the pediatric focus of the two-year work requirement was connected to the need to meet the needs of children who had gained dental coverage under HealthChoice.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly expanded Medicaid dental coverage to all adults by enacting House Bill 6 (Delegate Bonnie Cullison and then Delegate Mike McKay)/Senate Bill 150 (Senators Augustine and Guzzone). This legislation has been of tremendous importance to improving health equity for Marylanders. Now, almost 800,000 adults have dental coverage through Medicaid. As a result, our federally qualified health centers and local health departments are now serving more adults than ever. It is important to recognize that limited license dentists also may serve adults as part of their work contract. The bill simply recognizes the limited license dentists, as part of the dental programs at safety net providers, also serve adults.

We ask for a favorable report on this bill. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

SB799.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3565 · 301-858-3565
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 799 – Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults

February 12, 2024

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee

I am writing to strongly endorse Senate Bill 799 - Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults. This bill aims to authorize the State Board of Dental Examiners to waive certain education requirements for applicants to obtain a limited license to practice dentistry and provide adult dental services.

The bill establishes a pathway for practitioners of adult dentistry who receive a waiver under the bill to receive a general dentistry license in the State. Removing barriers to practicing dentistry will allow dental students to gain hands-on experience within the field making them more equipped for a dentistry career after graduation. Expanding the scope of those who are able to practice (certain) adult dental services not only aids in the educational advancement of dentistry students but also benefits communities where there are not enough dentists to effectively treat their population. This bill would help the current shortage of dental providers for basic adult dental procedures while promoting experience for those new in the dentistry field.

I thank you all for your time and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

SB799 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Paul

Position: FAV



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle

February 12, 2024

Senate Bill 0799: Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0799: Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults

Dental Care in Maryland has become a challenge in recent years due to the limited numbers of available dentists. Rural areas specifically have proven to be further limited compared to metropolitan and urban areas. As of this year, there are 14 counties in Maryland that are in a county-wide shortage of dental providers, all of which are rural counties (Rural Health Information Hub, 2024). Residents of rural areas are struggling to find affordable and accessible dental care, causing seemingly small dental issues to develop into serious complications. The Mayo Clinic describes oral health as the “window to your overall health”, as one’s oral health can directly influence the health of the body as a whole (2021). To combat the dental provider shortage and bring quality dental services to Maryland’s residents of rural areas, we need to find innovative ways to recruit dentists to the area. There are several existing public health programs being implemented across the state, but supplying authorized providers can be difficult. Currently, there are education requirements that can at the very least delay providers from delivering care to the community. With the passing of SB0799, the process for dental providers being able to provide essential dental care to the community for our public health programs will become less cumbersome. In turn, providers may feel encouraged to care for our underserved communities. Improving dental care will ultimately aid in the restoration and preservation of health among Maryland residents.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director*

jdayton@mdruralhealth.org

Mayo Clinic. (2021). *Oral health: A window to your overall health.*
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/dental/art-20047475#:~:text=Although%20the%20connection%20is%20not,birth%20and%20low%20birth%20weight.>

Rural Health Information Hub. (2024). *Health professional shortage areas: Dental care, by county, 2024 – Maryland.* <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/9?state=MD>

Dr.D testimony hb 786 & SB 799.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Doring

Position: FWA



CHARLES A. DORING, D.D.S., MAGD
CLEMENTINA PEREZ-WEST, D.D.S.
ROBERT B. TILKIN, D.D.S., MAGD
DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF
DENTAL SLEEP MEDICINE

Support with Amendment HB 786 & SB 799 –
Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Adult Serviced
Submitted by Charles A. Doring DDS

HB 786 & SB 799 will help improve the number and diversity of dentists able to provide care to some of the neediest in Maryland. The intent of the bill is to allow a mechanism for internationally trained 2-year Advanced Educational General Dentistry (AEGD) post residents to be contracted with a FQHC for a minimum of two years and afterwards have a pathway for general dental licensure in Maryland. Studies show patients are more likely to avail themselves to dental care if there is a cultural and language connection between provider and patients. In current law there is a pathway for internationally trained pediatric dentists. This bill will expand the potential pool of general dentists to provide care to patients of all ages.

In discussions with the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) and the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA), the bill needs a friendly amendment to fulfill the intent of the bill. I fully support the MSDA proposed amendment as outlined in their testimony. Below in my reasons for such an amendment.

As currently stated in the bill, post residents are defined "dental fellow"s at UMSOD. UMSOD currently does not offer AEGD "fellowship" as they do in pediatric dentistry. As written, on p.2 lines 11 & 12, this will not fulfill the intent of this bill as intended by Maryland Community Health Systems (MCHS) who authored the bill. For clarification and workability of the bill, I submit the following proposed amendment to p. 2 line 11 & 12 of HB 786 & SB 799:

(iii) Either is a pediatric dental fellow, [or] has successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship, **or has successfully completed an Advanced Education in Dentistry 2-year residency**, at the University of Maryland **School of Dentistry** [Dental School].

The amendment goal is to:

- 1) Preserve the current Pediatric Dentistry pathway.
- 2) Clarify the AEGD pathway (note the AEGD program can be a 1 year or 2-year certificate program at UMSOD).
- 3) Correct the name of our dental school.

I hope the makers and sponsors of this bill will consider this a friendly amendment, so we do not have unintended consequences later. For these reasons, I request the Maryland State Dental Association proposed amendments be adopted and HB 786 / SB 799 be given a favorable report.

MSDA Supports SB799.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Doherty

Position: FWA



The Maryland State Dental Association Supports with Amendment SB 799 – Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Adult Services
Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on Behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association

The Maryland State Dental Association supports SB 799 because it is likely to increase dental access to some of the under-served citizens of the State of Maryland. The bill authorizes the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners to waive the requirements for licensure for a foreign trained dentist with specific requirements intended to protect patient safety and provide quality dental treatment.

Under current law a foreign trained dentist may be granted a limited license to practice pediatric dentistry if the dentist is a pediatric dental fellow or has successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the health officer of the public health program, and the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry request the waiver and state that circumstances exist to justify granting the waiver. As introduced SB 799 proposes to allow foreign trained dentists to also practice under a limited license if they are a dental fellow or have completed a dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. However, there is not a dental fellowship in general dentistry at the University, rather there is a two-year residency in Advanced Education in Dentistry. The attached amendment conform the bill to the curriculum of the School of Dentistry.

In addition, as assurance of the competency of the foreign trained dentist the bill, with the amendments, requires that the applicant:

1. Shall hold a dental degree from a school, college or faculty of dentistry other than one located in the US or Canada;
2. Has successfully completed at least a 2-year dentistry residency at a dental school or hospital authorized by any state and recognized by the Board;
3. Either is a pediatric dental fellow or has completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland School of dentistry, or has completed a 2-year residency in Advanced Education in Dentistry at the School of Dentistry.
4. Is contractually obligated for at least 2 years to provide dental services either a) in a public health dental clinic operated by the State, a county or municipality of the State, or b) in a federally or State qualified health center, and may only provide care to Medicaid, uninsured or indigent patients, or patients who otherwise qualify for dental care in a public health dental clinic;
5. Must limit their practice to the public health facility to which they are contractually obligated to provide dental services.

The limited license issued pursuant to this waiver provision shall expire and be immediately surrendered to the Board if the licensee's contract expires, or if the licensee fails to fully satisfy the licensee's obligations contractually to provide dental services for 2 years, or does not limit their practice to the facility for which the applicant agreed to provide dental services.

Finally, the limited licensee may apply for a general license under specific requirements which assure the clinical competency of the applicant, and the applicant's ability to communicate with dental patients in English competently.

The provisions of SB 799, as amended, will assure the deliverance of dental care by a competent foreign trained dentist. It provides that that care be provided only to Medicaid, uninsured or indigent patients, thus increasing access to dental care to those most in need.

For these reasons the Maryland State Dental Association requests that SB 799 be given a favorable report, with amendment.

**Submitted by:
Daniel T. Doherty, Jr,
February 13, 2024**

**Amendments to SB 799 - Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice
Dentistry – Adult Services**

Requested by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on Behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association

Amendment: On page 2 lines 11 and 12 amend as follows:

“(iii) either is a {pediatric} dental fellow, ~~or~~ has successfully completed a {pediatric} dental fellowship at the University of Maryland ~~Dental~~ School of **DENTISTRY, OR HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN DENTISTRY 2-YEAR RESIDENCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY.**

**Submitted by:
Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.
February 13, 2024**