

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

BILL: House Bill (HB) 771 – Student Health – Program for Student Dental Health – Established

DATE: March 25, 2025

POSITION: Information

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provides this information regarding **House Bill (HB) 771 – Student Health – Program for Student Dental Health – Established**.

HB 771 Summary

HB 771 as amended directs MSDE to “support and facilitate” the publication of information on student dental health that results from a program for student dental health that will be created by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) by HB 771.

MSDE Information

Education Article § 7–411.1 and 7-4.11.2 currently direct MSDE to support local education agencies (LEAs) in incorporating age-appropriate lessons on a range of topics, including oral disease prevention and dental health. Implementation of the statute and all health curriculum requirements is a responsibility of each local board of education. MSDE establishes standards to fulfill the requirements of the law. COMAR 13A.04.18 requires the local superintendent to certify compliance with the Health Education State Curriculum, which includes oral health.

The terms “support and facilitate” in HB 771 are broad. Maryland LEAs maintain websites, student and family handbooks and other publications to convey information to the public and comply with statutory and regulatory requirements to post information. Assistance from MSDE is not needed for these functions. MSDE can convey information to LEA Directors of Student Support and Directors of School Health Services to increase awareness of the program for student dental health that will be created by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) by HB 771. MSDE can also share information from MDH and MSDE with the communications offices of LEAs to facilitate publication on websites, and in student handbooks and other documents.

MSDE respectfully requests consideration of these comments as HB 771 is discussed and deliberated.

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