
By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Montague, A. Jones, Branch, Paige, Dobson,
Oaks, Cane, Patterson, Phillips, and V. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~African-American Male Oral Cancer Initiative~~ **Oral Health Programs -**
3 **Reducing Oral Cancer Mortality**

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

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

1 BY adding to
 2 Article - Health - General
 3 Section ~~18-305~~ 18-801 through 18-803 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8.
 4 Oral Health Program"
 5 Annotated Code of Maryland
 6 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

14 ~~WHEREAS, Early detection is associated with longer survival; and~~

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

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

19 **Article - Health - General**

20 ~~18-305.~~

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

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

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

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

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

35 ~~(4) INCREASE ACCESS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN TO ORAL CANCER~~
 36 ~~TREATMENT; AND~~

1 (1) Appropriate screening, referral, and treatment for high-risk
2 underserved adults for whom dental services are not ordinarily available; and

3 (2) An evaluation of the pilot program, including the collection of
4 relevant data;

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

7 (d) On or before December 1 of each year, as part of the report required under
8 § 18-803 of the Health - General Article, the Secretary shall submit a report on the
9 status of the pilot program and any findings and recommendations to the Governor
10 and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on
11 the pilot program.

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

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

18 SECTION 2. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
19 effect ~~October 1, 2000.~~ July 1, 2000. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a
20 period of 3 years and 3 months and, at the end of September 30, 2003, with no further
21 action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and
22 of no further force and effect.