
By: **Senators Lawlah, Kasemeyer, Middleton, Van Hollen, Hoffman, and Neall**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Oral Health Program - Reducing Oral Cancer Mortality**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to
4 establish a program to prevent and detect oral cancer in the State; providing for
5 the program to target the needs of high-risk underserved populations; requiring
6 the program to train health care providers to screen and refer patients with oral
7 cancers; providing for the promotion of smoking cessation programs; providing
8 for the education to prevent and detect oral cancer of certain citizens of the
9 State; requiring the Secretary to establish a Prevent Oral Cancer Pilot Program
10 to screen, refer, and treat certain adults; requiring the Secretary to submit a
11 report to the Governor and the General Assembly; and generally relating to an
12 oral health program to prevent and detect oral cancer in the State.

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 18-801 through 18-804 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8. Oral
16 Health Program"
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Health - General**

22 **SUBTITLE 8. ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**

23 18-801.

24 THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE A PROGRAM TO PREVENT
25 AND DETECT ORAL CANCER IN THE STATE, WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS OF MEETING THE
26 NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, WITH THE INTENT TO REDUCE
27 ORAL CANCER MORTALITY.

1 18-802.

2 THE SECRETARY SHALL:

3 (1) IN CONSULTATION WITH DENTAL CARE PROVIDERS, DEVELOP AND
4 IMPLEMENT ONGOING ORAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE:

5 (I) TO TRAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO SCREEN AND
6 PROPERLY REFER PATIENTS WITH ORAL CANCERS; AND

7 (II) TO PROMOTE SMOKING CESSATION WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS OF
8 MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS; AND

9 (2) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ORAL CANCER AND SMOKING CESSATION
10 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE, WITH A PRIMARY
11 FOCUS OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS,
12 INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

13 (I) THE RISK FACTORS THAT LEAD TO ORAL CANCER;

14 (II) THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ORAL CANCER;

15 (III) THE HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS THAT MAY LEAD TO ORAL CANCER;
16 AND

17 (IV) THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SCREENING TO DETECT ORAL CANCER.

18 18-803.

19 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A PREVENT ORAL CANCER PILOT
20 PROGRAM WITH APPROPRIATE SCREENING, REFERRAL, AND TREATMENT FOR
21 HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED ADULTS FOR WHOM DENTAL SERVICES ARE NOT
22 ORDINARILY AVAILABLE.

23 (B) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE:

24 (1) SCREENING, REFERRAL, AND TREATMENT FOR HIGH-RISK
25 UNDERSERVED ADULTS FOR WHOM DENTAL SERVICES ARE NOT ORDINARILY
26 AVAILABLE; AND

27 (2) AN EVALUATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM INCLUDING COLLECTING
28 DATA AND MONITORING THE PILOT PROGRAM.

29 (C) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY BE UNDERTAKEN IN
30 CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND
31 DETECTION OF CANCER IN THE STATE.

32 18-804.

33 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE SECRETARY SHALL SUBMIT A
34 REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND,

1 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENT ORAL CANCER PILOT PROGRAM AND OTHER PROGRAMS
3 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the existing Oral Health
5 Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary shall recommend to the Secretary the
6 best methods to promote and implement a strategy to decrease the oral cancer
7 mortality and implement the provisions of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 July 1, 2000.