

SENATE BILL 809

Unofficial Copy
J1

2000 Regular Session
0lr2876
CF 0lr2587

By: **Senator Lawlah**
Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2000
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **African American Male Oral Cancer Initiative**

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

10 BY adding to
11 Article - Health - General
12 Section 18-305
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

15 WHEREAS, Between 1973 and 1992, the incidence of oral cancer in the United
16 States increased 21.1% among African Americans as opposed to 8.3% in whites, while
17 the mortality rate decreased in the general population but increased 10.9% in African
18 American males;

19 WHEREAS, In Maryland the mortality rate for oral cancer among African
20 Americans is 75% higher than among African Americans in the United States as a
21 whole;

22 WHEREAS, Early detection is associated with longer survival; and

23 WHEREAS, Tobacco use is implicated in 75% of all oral cancers in the United
24 States; now, therefore,

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

1

Article - Health - General

2 18-305.

3 (A) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL ESTABLISH AN AFRICAN AMERICAN
4 ORAL CANCER INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE SCREENING, EARLY DIAGNOSIS, AND
5 TREATMENT OF ORAL CANCER IN AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN.

6 (B) UNDER THE INITIATIVE, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH, IN
7 CONSULTATION WITH DENTAL PROVIDERS SERVING AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN,
8 SHALL:

9 (1) INVESTIGATE THE PREVALENCE OF ORAL CANCER AMONG AFRICAN
10 AMERICAN MEN AND IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS THAT MAY EXPLAIN THE
11 CORRELATION;

12 (2) DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER STRATEGIES TO
13 PREVENT THE DISEASE AND REDUCE THE RISK FACTORS AMONG AFRICAN
14 AMERICAN MEN;

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

17 (4) INCREASE ACCESS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN TO ORAL CANCER
18 TREATMENT; AND

19 (5) ENGAGE IN OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT REDUCE THE INCIDENCE AND
20 IMPACT OF ORAL CANCER AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN.

21 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL OBTAIN FUNDING FOR THE INITIATIVE FROM
22 THE CIGARETTE RESTITUTION FUND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-317(F)(1)(VIII) OF THE
23 STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2000.