

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 329
Finance

(Senator Lawlah, *et al.*)

Oral Health Programs - Reducing Oral Cancer Mortality

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to develop and implement ongoing oral cancer educational programs to: (1) train health care providers to screen and properly refer patients with oral cancers; and (2) promote smoking cessation with a primary focus of meeting the needs of high-risk, underserved populations.

DHMH must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 of each year. The existing Oral Health Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary of DHMH must recommend to the Secretary the best methods to promote and implement a strategy to decrease oral cancer mortality and implement the bill's provisions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill restates existing State law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 307 of 2000 required DHMH to develop and implement oral cancer educational programs in Maryland. It also required DHMH to implement a Prevent Oral Cancer Pilot Program to screen, refer, and treat high-risk, underserved

adults for whom dental services are not ordinarily available. The pilot program is scheduled to terminate September 30, 2003.

Background: According to the National Institutes of Health, oral cancer accounts for about 8% of all malignant growths. Men, especially those older than 40, are affected twice as often as women. Approximately 50% of individuals who develop oral cancer live longer than five years. Nearly 75% of individuals diagnosed with oral cancer can be cured if the cancer is detected early before spreading to other tissues.

The DHMH fiscal 2004 budget allowance includes \$500,000 for oral cancer education programs in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 791 of 2000, a similar bill, passed in both the Senate and House and was signed into law by the Governor.

Cross File: HB 263 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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