
By: **Senators Lawlah, Kelley, and Middleton**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2006
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Oral Health Safety Net Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Oral Health Safety Net Program in the Office of
4 Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; providing for the
5 purpose of the Program; requiring the Office to solicit and award certain grants,
6 subject to the State budget; requiring the Office to oversee the operation of the
7 Program; requiring the Office to conduct a certain annual evaluation of the
8 Program; requiring the Office to contract with a certain individual, subject to
9 the State budget; requiring the Office to provide certain education courses,
10 subject to the State budget; requiring the Office to submit a certain report to the
11 Governor and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; declaring the
12 intent of the General Assembly; requiring the Department to conduct a certain
13 survey; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and
14 generally relating to oral health for underserved populations in the State.

15 BY adding to
16 Article - Health - General
17 Section 13-2301 through 13-2306, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
18 "Subtitle 23. Oral Health Safety Net Program"
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

21 **Preamble**

22 WHEREAS, While almost 44% of HealthChoice recipients make at least one
23 dental visit each year, only 14% of HealthChoice recipients receive restorative dental
24 care; and

25 WHEREAS, Restorative treatment services should be increased to better
26 accommodate the needs of the HealthChoice population and other underserved
27 populations; now, therefore,

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

1 **Article - Health - General**

2 SUBTITLE 23. ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM.

3 13-2301.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET
5 PROGRAM.6 (B) THERE IS AN ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF
7 ORAL HEALTH IN THE DEPARTMENT.8 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE START-UP FUNDING TO
9 EXPAND ORAL HEALTH CAPACITY FOR UNDERSERVED LOW-INCOME AND DISABLED
10 INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL
11 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND IN THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM.

12 13-2302.

13 (A) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL SOLICIT PROPOSALS FROM LOCAL
14 HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS FOR THE
15 PURPOSE OF ISSUING GRANTS TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE WAYS
16 TO INCREASE DENTAL PROVIDER CAPACITY FOR THE UNDERSERVED.

17 (B) SUBJECT TO THE STATE BUDGET, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL:

18 (1) AWARD GRANTS; AND

19 (2) OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.

20 (C) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL PLACE PRIORITY ON AWARDING
21 GRANTS TO PROPOSALS THAT OUTLINE HOW THE POTENTIAL GRANTEE WILL
22 MAXIMIZE LIMITED RESOURCES, INCLUDING:23 (1) SHARING OF RESOURCES WITH OTHER PERSONS OR
24 ORGANIZATIONS;25 (2) CASE MANAGEMENT TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO DENTAL
26 SERVICES;

27 (3) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PURCHASING AGREEMENTS;

28 (4) OBTAINING MATCHING FUNDS TO INCREASE RESOURCES;

29 (5) INCENTIVES TO INCREASE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION;

30 (6) QUANTIFIABLE OUTCOME MEASURES OF SUCCESS; AND

31 (7) PLANS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES AFTER
32 TERMINATION OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1 13-2303.

2 SUBJECT TO THE STATE BUDGET, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL:

3 (1) CONTRACT WITH A LICENSED DENTIST TO PROVIDE EXPERTISE IN
4 DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES FOR THE OFFICE; AND

5 (2) PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR
6 PROVIDERS THAT OFFER ORAL HEALTH TREATMENT TO UNDERSERVED
7 POPULATIONS.

8 13-2304.

9 (A) (1) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL
10 EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM.

11 (2) THE EVALUATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
12 INCLUDE:

13 (I) DATA ON ANY PROGRESS RESULTING FROM EACH GRANT
14 AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;

15 (II) DATA ON ANY PROGRESS OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM;

16 (III) DATA DEMONSTRATING ANY INCREASE IN THE USE OF
17 RESTORATIVE DENTAL CARE AMONG UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS; AND

18 (IV) DATA FROM ANY STATEWIDE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE
19 DEPARTMENT THAT DEMONSTRATES ANY PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM.

20 (B) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
21 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR ON THE RESULTS OF THE
23 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

24 13-2305.

25 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

26 (1) THAT \$2,000,000 BE INCLUDED IN EACH OF THE FISCAL 2007, 2008,
27 AND 2009 STATE OPERATING BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM;

28 (2) THAT GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM FROM
29 JANUARY 1, 2007, TO JANUARY 31, 2007, BOTH INCLUSIVE, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
30 2007; AND

31 (3) THAT FULL FUNDING FOR GRANTS SHALL CONTINUE IN
32 SUBSEQUENT YEARS UNLESS THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH DETERMINES THAT A
33 GRANTEE IS NOT FULFILLING THE AGREED-ON CONDITIONS ON THE AWARD.

1 13-2306.

2 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL CONDUCT A
3 STATEWIDE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2010, CONCERNING THE
4 ORAL HEALTH STATUS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
6 effect July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of
7 June 30, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
8 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.