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By: Senators Lawlah, Kelley, and Middleton Middleton, DeGrange, Hogan,  
Jones, Kramer, McFadden, Munson, and Ruben

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2006  
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 23, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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)

1 Preamble

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

5 WHEREAS, Restorative treatment services should be increased to better  
6 accommodate the needs of the HealthChoice population and other underserved  
7 populations; now, therefore,

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

10 **Article - Health - General**

11 SUBTITLE 23. ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM.

12 13-2301.

13 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET  
14 PROGRAM.

15 (B) THERE IS AN ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF  
16 ORAL HEALTH IN THE DEPARTMENT.

17 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE START-UP FUNDING TO  
18 EXPAND ORAL HEALTH CAPACITY FOR UNDERSERVED LOW-INCOME AND DISABLED  
19 INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL  
20 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND IN THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM.

21 13-2302.

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

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

27 (1) AWARD GRANTS; AND

28 (2) OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.

29 (C) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL PLACE PRIORITY ON AWARDING  
30 GRANTS TO PROPOSALS THAT OUTLINE HOW THE POTENTIAL GRANTEE WILL  
31 MAXIMIZE LIMITED RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

32 (1) SHARING OF RESOURCES WITH OTHER PERSONS OR  
33 ORGANIZATIONS;

3 UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 649

- 1 (2) CASE MANAGEMENT TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO DENTAL  
2 SERVICES;
- 3 (3) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PURCHASING AGREEMENTS;
- 4 (4) OBTAINING MATCHING FUNDS TO INCREASE RESOURCES;
- 5 (5) INCENTIVES TO INCREASE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION;
- 6 (6) QUANTIFIABLE OUTCOME MEASURES OF SUCCESS; ~~AND~~
- 7 (7) SCHOOL-BASED SCREENINGS; AND
- 8 ~~(7)~~ (8) PLANS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES AFTER  
9 TERMINATION OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

10 13-2303.

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

- 12 (1) CONTRACT WITH A LICENSED DENTIST TO PROVIDE EXPERTISE IN  
13 DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES FOR THE OFFICE; AND
- 14 (2) PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR  
15 PROVIDERS THAT OFFER ORAL HEALTH TREATMENT TO UNDERSERVED  
16 POPULATIONS.

17 13-2304.

- 18 (A) (1) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL  
19 EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM.
- 20 (2) THE EVALUATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL  
21 INCLUDE:
- 22 (I) DATA ON ANY PROGRESS RESULTING FROM EACH GRANT  
23 AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;
- 24 (II) DATA ON ANY PROGRESS OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM;
- 25 (III) DATA DEMONSTRATING ANY INCREASE IN THE USE OF  
26 RESTORATIVE DENTAL CARE AMONG UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS; AND
- 27 (IV) DATA FROM ANY STATEWIDE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE  
28 DEPARTMENT THAT DEMONSTRATES ANY PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM.
- 29 (B) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN  
30 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
31 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE ~~JUNE~~ SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR ON THE RESULTS OF  
32 THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1 13-2305.

2 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

3 (1) THAT \$2,000,000 BE INCLUDED IN EACH OF THE FISCAL ~~2007, 2008,~~  
4 ~~AND 2009~~ 2008, 2009, AND 2010 STATE OPERATING BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COSTS  
5 OF THE PROGRAM;

6 (2) THAT GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM FROM  
7 ~~JANUARY 1, 2007, TO JANUARY 31, 2007, BOTH INCLUSIVE, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR~~  
8 ~~2007~~ JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JULY 31, 2007, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008; AND

9 (3) THAT FULL FUNDING FOR GRANTS SHALL CONTINUE IN  
10 ~~SUBSEQUENT THE SUBSEQUENT TWO FISCAL~~ YEARS UNLESS THE OFFICE OF ORAL  
11 HEALTH DETERMINES THAT A GRANTEE IS NOT FULFILLING THE AGREED-ON  
12 CONDITIONS ON THE AWARD.

13 13-2306.

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

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