

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 286

(Senator Kelley)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Maryland Dent-Care Program - Participants and Award Amounts

This bill repeals statutory limits on program participation and award amounts for the Maryland Dent-Care Program and requires the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) to adopt regulations to determine the limits in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: OSFA could adopt regulations to establish program participation and award amounts for the Maryland Dent-Care Program with existing personnel and resources. The bill would not impact the annual amount budgeted for the program.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Dent-Care Program provides higher education loan repayment assistance to licensed dentists who agree that at least 30% of the patients they serve will be Medicaid enrollees. To qualify for a grant, a dentist must also demonstrate a financial need. OSFA may award loan assistance grants under the program to a maximum of 15 participants each year. The grants may be in an amount of up to \$33,000 per year.

Background: The Maryland Dent-Care Program was established by Chapters 536 and 537 of 2000 in an effort to increase access to oral health services for underserved Medicaid recipients. In fiscal 2006, OSFA made nine awards totaling \$291,353 through the program. OSFA advises that it anticipates expenditures of approximately \$240,000 for the program in fiscal 2008.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2007
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