

# SENATE BILL 703

P1

4lr2527  
CF 4lr2486

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Children’s Dental Health**  
3 **Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as  
5 Children’s Dental Health Month; and generally relating to Children’s Dental  
6 Health Month.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–502 through 7–505, respectively

10 to be Section 7–503 through 7–506, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (H.B. 270) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
13 2014)

14 BY adding to

15 Article – General Provisions

16 Section 7–502

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (H.B. 270) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
19 2014)

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, Oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting  
22 speech, nutrition, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of  
23 life; and

24 WHEREAS, Dental disease is the most common chronic disease among children  
25 in Maryland – four times more common than asthma and childhood obesity; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Students nationwide miss more than 52 million hours of school and  
2 employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental  
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in  
5 Maryland, with 31% of third grade children having experienced dental decay; and

6 WHEREAS, Greater access to dental care is associated with higher utilization  
7 of preventive and restorative dental services; and

8 WHEREAS, Preventive treatments, including fluoride and sealants, are proven  
9 to reduce the risk of dental decay in school-age children; and

10 WHEREAS, Low-income children suffer more tooth decay than their more  
11 affluent peers; and

12 WHEREAS, 30% of postpartum women reported that it had been between 1 and  
13 5 years since their last teeth cleaning; and

14 WHEREAS, Maryland residents deserve access to high-quality oral health care;  
15 now, therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-502 through 7-505, respectively, of Article – General  
18 Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-503  
19 through 7-506, respectively.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
21 read as follows:

22 **Article – General Provisions**

23 **7-502.**

24 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**  
25 **AS CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH.**

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2014.