

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1146 (Delegate Kipke, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Health Care Commission -
Dental Services - Survey and Regional Needs Assessment

This emergency bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), to conduct a survey of hospitals to identify the availability of hospital operating room resources for dentist use, as specified. MDH and the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), jointly and in consultation with MHA and the Maryland Ambulatory Surgery Association, must conduct a regional needs assessment for dental procedures that require anesthesia or moderate sedation, as specified. MDH and MHCC, jointly and in consultation with MHA, must develop regional plans to ensure the availability of appropriate operating room space for the performance of dental procedures for Medicaid recipients. By December 1, 2023, MDH and MHCC, jointly and in consultation with MHA, must submit a report to specified committees of the General Assembly that includes the results of the survey and the regional needs assessment, as well as the regional plans.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH (and MHCC) can complete and submit (in consultation with specified entities) the required survey, regional needs assessment, and regional plans with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under federal requirements, comprehensive dental coverage is mandatory for children enrolled in Medicaid. However, dental benefits for Medicaid-eligible adults are optional. Prior to January 1, 2023, Medicaid dental coverage (provided through the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program) was available to children younger than age 21, former foster care recipients younger than age 26, pregnant women age 21 and older, and adults enrolled in the Rare and Expensive Case Management program. Effective January 1, 2023, Medicaid provides dental coverage for all adults with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2023
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