

Chapter 903

(Senate Bill 600)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Services – Coverage and Rate Study

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to study the feasibility of including certain dental services and certain reimbursement among the coverage offered by the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program and setting reimbursement rates for certain services at certain amounts; and generally relating to a coverage and rate study for dental services.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Health shall study the feasibility of:

(1) including among the coverage offered by the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program, with minimal benefit restrictions:

(i) removable full and partial dentures; and

(ii) reimbursement for providers on a per-patient basis for house calls and extended care facility calls; and

(2) setting reimbursement rates for the services listed under item (1) of this subsection at amounts that are:

(i) at a level that ensures that all dental care providers are reimbursed adequately to provide access to care; and

(ii) not less than 60% of:

1. the average commercial rates for all payors in the State who offer the services; or

2. if the average commercial rates cannot be determined, the benchmark charges for the American Dental Association Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes of the services.

(b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the Maryland Department of Health shall solicit input from:

(1) State chapters of national professional dental organizations; and

(2) advocacy groups that work to improve the oral health of the State's low-income populations.

(c) On or before December 1, 2024, the Maryland Department of Health shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the findings of the feasibility study required under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.