

HOUSE BILL 103

J1

(PRE-FILED)

4r1273
CF 4r1991

By: **Delegate Bagnall**

Requested: October 30, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Services – Coverage and Rate**
3 **Study**

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

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

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

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

14 (i) removable full and partial dentures; and

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

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

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

21 (ii) not less than 60% of:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2024.