

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 600

(Senator Kramer)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to study the feasibility of including coverage, with minimal benefit restrictions, for (1) removable full and partial dentures and (2) reimbursement for providers on a per-patient basis for house calls and extended care facility calls under the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. MDH must also study the feasibility of setting reimbursement rates for such services at amounts that (1) ensure that all dental care providers are reimbursed adequately to provide access to care and (2) are not less than 60% of the average commercial rates for all payors in the State who offer the services or, if average commercial rates cannot be determined, specified benchmark charges. In conducting the study, MDH must solicit input from specified stakeholders. MDH must report the findings of the feasibility study to specified committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2024. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH can complete and report on the feasibility study using 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

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

Designated Cross File: HB 103 (Delegate Bagnall) - Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2024
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