

# SENATE BILL 181

J1  
SB 649/06 – B&T

71r1343  
CF HB 30

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By: **Senator Middleton**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2007  
Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Oral Health Safety Net Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Oral Health Safety Net Program in the Office of  
4 Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; providing for the  
5 purpose of the Program; requiring the Office to solicit and award certain grants,  
6 subject to the State budget; requiring the Office to oversee the operation of the  
7 Program; requiring the Office to conduct a certain annual evaluation of the  
8 Program; requiring the Office to contract with a certain individual, subject to  
9 the State budget; requiring the Office to provide certain education courses,  
10 subject to the State budget; requiring the Office to submit a certain report to the  
11 Governor and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; declaring the  
12 intent of the General Assembly; requiring the Department to conduct a certain  
13 survey; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
14 generally relating to oral health for underserved populations in the State.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Health – General  
17 Section 13–2501 through 13–2506, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle  
18 “Subtitle 25. Oral Health Safety Net Program”  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

21 Preamble

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, While almost 44% of HealthChoice recipients make at least one  
2 dental visit each year, only 14% of HealthChoice recipients receive restorative dental  
3 care; and

4 WHEREAS, Restorative treatment services should be increased to better  
5 accommodate the needs of the HealthChoice population and other underserved  
6 populations; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
8 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

9 **Article - Health - General**

10 **SUBTITLE 25. ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM.**

11 **13-2501.**

12 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ORAL HEALTH SAFETY  
13 NET PROGRAM.

14 (B) THERE IS AN ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE  
15 OF ORAL HEALTH IN THE DEPARTMENT.

16 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE START-UP  
17 FUNDING TO EXPAND ORAL HEALTH CAPACITY FOR UNDERSERVED  
18 LOW-INCOME AND DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS  
19 ENROLLED IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND IN THE  
20 MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM.

21 **13-2502.**

22 (A) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL SOLICIT PROPOSALS FROM  
23 LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, AND  
24 ENTITIES PROVIDING DENTAL SERVICES WITHIN STATE FACILITIES, FOR THE  
25 PURPOSE OF ISSUING GRANTS TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE  
26 WAYS TO INCREASE DENTAL PROVIDER CAPACITY FOR THE UNDERSERVED.

27 (B) SUBJECT TO THE STATE BUDGET, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH  
28 SHALL:

1           (1)    **AWARD GRANTS; AND**

2           (2)    **OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

3           **(C)    THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL PLACE PRIORITY ON**  
4 **AWARDING GRANTS TO PROPOSALS THAT OUTLINE HOW THE POTENTIAL**  
5 **GRANTEE WILL MAXIMIZE LIMITED RESOURCES, INCLUDING:**

6                   (1)    **SHARING OF RESOURCES WITH OTHER PERSONS OR**  
7 **ORGANIZATIONS;**

8                   (2)    **CASE MANAGEMENT TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO DENTAL**  
9 **SERVICES;**

10                  (3)    **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PURCHASING AGREEMENTS;**

11                  (4)    **OBTAINING MATCHING FUNDS TO INCREASE RESOURCES;**

12                  (5)    **INCENTIVES TO INCREASE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION;**

13                  (6)    **QUANTIFIABLE OUTCOME MEASURES OF SUCCESS;**

14                  (7)    **SCHOOL-BASED SCREENINGS; AND**

15                   (8)    **PLANS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES AFTER**  
16 **TERMINATION OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

17 **13-2503.**

18           **SUBJECT TO THE STATE BUDGET, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL:**

19                   (1)    **CONTRACT WITH A LICENSED DENTIST TO PROVIDE**  
20 **EXPERTISE IN DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES FOR THE OFFICE; AND**

21                   (2)    **PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATE CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
22 **COURSES FOR PROVIDERS THAT OFFER ORAL HEALTH TREATMENT TO**  
23 **UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.**

24 **13-2504.**

1           **(A) (1) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL**  
2 **EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

3                   **(2) THE EVALUATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**  
4 **INCLUDE:**

5                           **(I) DATA ON ANY PROGRESS RESULTING FROM EACH**  
6 **GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**

7                           **(II) DATA ON ANY PROGRESS OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM;**

8                           **(III) DATA DEMONSTRATING ANY INCREASE IN THE USE OF**  
9 **RESTORATIVE DENTAL CARE AMONG UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS; AND**

10                           **(IV) DATA FROM ANY STATEWIDE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY**  
11 **THE DEPARTMENT THAT DEMONSTRATES ANY PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM.**

12           **(B) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR**  
13 **AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,**  
14 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR ON**  
15 **THE RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

16 **13-2505.**

17           **IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

18                   **(1) THAT \$2,000,000 BE INCLUDED IN EACH OF THE FISCAL 2009,**  
19 **2010, AND 2011 STATE OPERATING BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF THE**  
20 **PROGRAM;**

21                   **(2) THAT GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM**  
22 **FROM JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JULY 31, 2008, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009; AND**

23                   **(3) THAT FULL FUNDING FOR GRANTS SHALL CONTINUE IN THE**  
24 **SUBSEQUENT TWO FISCAL YEARS UNLESS THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH**  
25 **DETERMINES THAT A GRANTEE IS NOT FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS OF THE**  
26 **AWARD.**

1 **13-2506.**

2 **THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL CONDUCT**  
3 **A STATEWIDE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2011, CONCERNING**  
4 **THE ORAL HEALTH STATUS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE STATE.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of  
7 September 30, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
8 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.