

CHAPTER 527

(Senate Bill 181)

AN ACT concerning

Oral Health Safety Net Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Oral Health Safety Net Program in the Office of Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the Office to solicit certain proposals; ~~and requiring the Office to~~ award certain grants and oversee the operation of the Program, subject to the limitations of the State budget; ~~requiring the Office to oversee the operation of the Program~~; requiring the Office to conduct a certain annual evaluation of the Program; requiring the Office to contract with a certain individual, subject to the limitations of the State budget; requiring the Office to provide certain education courses, subject to the limitations of the State budget; requiring the Office to submit a certain report to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; declaring the intent of the General Assembly; requiring the Department to conduct a certain survey; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to submit a certain report to the General Assembly on a certain date; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to oral health for underserved populations in the State.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 13–2501 through 13–2506, ~~inclusive~~, to be under the new subtitle
“Subtitle 25. Oral Health Safety Net Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

Preamble

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

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

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

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 25. ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM.

13-2501.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET PROGRAM.

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

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

13-2502.

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

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

- (1) AWARD GRANTS; AND
- (2) OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.

(C) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL PLACE PRIORITY ON AWARDED GRANTS TO PROPOSALS THAT:

(1) ARE TARGETED TO REGIONS OF THE STATE WHERE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE MOST SCARCE FOR LOW-INCOME, DISABLED, AND MEDICAID POPULATIONS; AND

(2) ~~OUTLINE~~ OUTLINE HOW THE POTENTIAL GRANTEE WILL MAXIMIZE LIMITED RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

~~(1)~~ (I) SHARING OF RESOURCES WITH OTHER PERSONS ~~OR ORGANIZATIONS;~~

~~(2)~~ (II) CASE MANAGEMENT TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO DENTAL SERVICES;

~~(3)~~ (III) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PURCHASING AGREEMENTS;

~~(4)~~ (IV) OBTAINING MATCHING FUNDS TO INCREASE RESOURCES;

~~(5)~~ (V) INCENTIVES TO INCREASE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION;

~~(6)~~ (VI) QUANTIFIABLE OUTCOME MEASURES OF SUCCESS;

~~(7)~~ (VII) SCHOOL-BASED SCREENINGS; AND

~~(8)~~ (VIII) PLANS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES AFTER TERMINATION OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

13-2503.

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

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

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

13-2504.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13-2505.

IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

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

~~(2)~~ (2) **THAT GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM FROM JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH ~~JULY 31, 2008~~ JUNE 30, 2009, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009; AND**

~~(3)~~ (2) **THAT FULL FUNDING FOR GRANTS SHALL CONTINUE IN THE SUBSEQUENT TWO FISCAL YEARS UNLESS THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH**

DETERMINES THAT A GRANTEE IS NOT FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD.

13-2506.

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly the following:

(1) the annual cost to provide comprehensive oral health services in all programs funded by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(2) the amount of State revenues spent on somatic health services related to the lack of comprehensive oral health care; and

(3) the number of dental providers in each jurisdiction in the State providing care to uninsured and under-insured residents, the number of residents served, and the dental providers' capacity to provide additional services.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2007.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of September 30, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.