

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1746

H.P. 1164

House of Representatives, April 22, 2025

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### **An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.  
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and  
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DUCHARME of Madison,  
Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, MASTRACCIO of Sanford,  
MEYER of Eliot, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

1       **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2               **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-S, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. AAA,  
3       §1, is amended to read:

4               **2-A. School-based preventive oral health services.** By January 1, ~~2025~~ 2027, the  
5       department shall provide preventive oral health services through the Maine Center for  
6       Disease Control and Prevention in all public schools in the State. The department shall  
7       establish public-private partnerships between state agencies or public schools and private  
8       corporations, individuals or organizations to allow mobile dental services providers to offer  
9       additional preventive oral health and disease intervention services in public schools.

10              **Sec. 2. Mobile dental services providers in public health districts.** The  
11       Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a model to provide for a mobile  
12       dental services provider in each public health district as described in the Maine Revised  
13       Statutes, Title 22, section 411, subsection 5, based on the Cumberland County School Oral  
14       Health Project. The department shall establish public-private partnerships between the  
15       department or school districts and private corporations, individuals or organizations to  
16       initially set up mobile dental services providers with equipment, supplies, logistics and  
17       methods of operation. The department shall provide for, at least every school year in a  
18       different public health district, at least one mobile dental services provider until each  
19       district has at least one mobile dental services provider.

20              **Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services to provide training and**  
21       **education to primary care providers.** The oral health program within the Department  
22       of Health and Human Services shall provide training and education to primary care  
23       providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment for infants and small children.  
24       The department shall use guidance from the From the First Tooth program or its successor  
25       program and the American Academy of Pediatrics to encourage the use of silver diamine  
26       fluoride by pediatricians in primary care settings to reduce dental disease and prevent  
27       cavities.

28              **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
29       allocations are made.

30       **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**  
31       **Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143**

32       Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Health Educator III position and one  
33       Planning and Research Associate I position previously continued by Financial Order  
34       CV0733 F5 to support oral health services provided in public schools in the State and  
35       provides funding for related All Other costs.

36 <b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
37       POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000
38       Personal Services	\$189,534	\$198,024
39       All Other	\$19,280	\$19,478
40		
41       FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$208,814</u>	<u>\$217,502</u>

## SUMMARY

This bill does the following.

1. It delays the requirement for oral health services to be available in all schools from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027 and clarifies that the requirement applies only to public schools.

2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop public-private partnerships to establish a model to provide for mobile dental services providers to provide additional preventive oral health and disease intervention services in schools based on the model in the Cumberland County School Oral Health Project. It requires the department to provide for at least one mobile dental services provider in each public health district per school year.

3. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide training and education to primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment for infants and small children using guidance from the From the First Tooth program or its successor program and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Pediatricians are encouraged to use silver diamine fluoride in primary care settings to reduce dental disease and prevent cavities.

4. It makes permanent 2 previously established limited positions related to provided oral health services in public schools within the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.