

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 920

H. P. 733

House of Representatives, March 2, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Connolly of Portland, referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Locke of Sebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to the Administration of School Dental Health Programs.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 416 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 416

1979 DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION ACT

§ 2121. Short title

This chapter may be cited as the 1979 Dental Health Education Act.

§ 2122. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, dental health education shall mean the provision of printed curricula, audio-visual aids, toothbrushes, floss, disclosing tablets, topical and systemic flourides and necessary permanent equipment to maintain oral hygiene.

§ 2123. Administration

The Department of Human Services shall provide to any public school system or private educational system financial reimbursement for the costs of providing dental health education to children.

The Office of Dental Health, Department of Human Services, shall administer the program.

§ 2124. Rules and regulations

The department shall promulgate rules and regulations outlining procedures for prior approval before materials in the definition of dental health education are purchased. The department may also promulgate rules and regulations to further define terms in this chapter and such other rules and regulations as shall effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Dental Health		
All Other	\$100,000	\$133,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Dental disease afflicts the general population, but it is one of the diseases most effectively prevented. Prevention must be initiated during the growth of the deciduous teeth and the development of the permanent teeth.

Dental health education for Maine's school children is a positive step towards the prevention of disease.

With the financial strains of the present health care system burgeoning, prevention of disease is the optimal solution.