

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 100

H.P. 84

House of Representatives, January 12, 2009

### An Act To Improve Oral Health Care for Maine's Children

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SMITH of Monmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CLEARY of Houlton, GILES of Belfast, MARTIN of Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6451, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Student right to screening for sight and hearing defects and oral health**  
5 **problems.** Each student shall must be screened periodically to determine whether they  
6 have the student has sight or hearing defects or oral health problems.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6451, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

8 **4. Oral health screening.** Oral health screening under this section may be  
9 performed by a dentist or a dental hygienist licensed under Title 32, chapter 16,  
10 subchapter 4. Each student must be screened prior to beginning kindergarten, or upon  
11 entry into the school district when entering grades 1 to 6, and periodically thereafter to  
12 determine whether the student has oral health problems.

13 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6454**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 653, §1, is amended to  
14 read:

15 **§6454. Oral health assessments and screenings**

16 The commissioner shall cooperate with the Commissioner of Health and Human  
17 Services in implementing a grant program developed in accordance with Title 22, section  
18 2128 to implement the requirements of section 6451 with regard to oral health screening  
19 and to increase the provision of oral health assessments or screenings for children  
20 entering elementary school. A child whose parent objects in writing to an oral health  
21 assessment or screening on religious grounds may not be assessed or screened.

## 22 SUMMARY

23 This bill expands health screening in schools to include oral health screening. The  
24 bill requires oral health screening for students prior to entering kindergarten and for new  
25 students to a school district entering grades 1 to 6 and periodically thereafter. The bill  
26 coordinates oral health screening done under the new requirement with oral health  
27 screening done through a grant program with the Department of Health and Human  
28 Services under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6454 and Title 22, section  
29 2128.