

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1837

H.P. 1169

House of Representatives, April 27, 2023

An Act to Increase Oral Health Services

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, JAVNER of
Chester, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, 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, the
5 department shall provide preventive oral health services through the Maine Center for
6 Disease Control and Prevention in all public schools, as defined in Title 20-A, section 1,
7 subsection 24, in the State.

8 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-S, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. AAA, §3,
9 is further amended to read:

10 **4. Annual report.** By February 15, 1999 and annually thereafter, the department shall
11 submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health
12 and human services matters an annual report containing information related to the progress
13 of the department in meeting the goal stated in subsection 3 and an action plan to increase
14 access to dental care. The report must include an analysis of the progress being made in
15 increasing access, the problems incurred within the prior year and corrective action to be
16 taken. ~~The action plan must consider the following strategies to increase access: nonprofit~~
17 ~~clinics; purchase of practice clinics; enhanced reimbursement for dentists serving a large~~
18 ~~number of children under the Medicaid program; and contracts with dental clinics and~~
19 ~~health centers to provide dental care.~~ After February 15, 2023, the report must be submitted
20 by December 31st annually and must also include the status of preventive oral health
21 services provided in schools pursuant to subsection 2-A and methods for maximizing
22 Medicaid funding as permitted by federal law for oral health staff positions within the
23 department and school-based preventive oral health services to the joint standing
24 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters,
25 which may report out legislation based upon findings in the report to the Legislature in the
26 legislative session in which the report is submitted.

27 **Sec. 3. PL 2021 c. 635, Pt. AAA, §5** is amended to read:

28 **Sec. AAA-5. Value-based Alternative payment pilot project.** ~~No later than~~
29 ~~July 1, 2023, the~~ The Department of Health and Human Services shall begin work with the
30 MaineCare Advisory Committee dental subcommittee to plan a pilot project for an oral
31 health ~~value-based alternative~~ payment model within the MaineCare program that includes
32 prevention, early intervention, disease management and care coordination services for oral
33 health services delivered in schools and early child care settings. ~~The pilot project must last~~
34 ~~no less than 24 months.~~ The department shall report the results of plan for the pilot project
35 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and
36 human services matters ~~no later than January 1, 2026~~ in the report due December 31, 2023
37 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-S, subsection 4.

38 **Sec. 4. Department of Health and Human Services to make certain**
39 **positions permanent.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall make
40 permanent within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's office of rural
41 health and primary care the position of oral health educator to conduct outreach, education,
42 community engagement and workforce development strategies and the position of data and
43 research analyst to provide data and research support needed for the State and external
44 partners to monitor the capacity and reach of dental services in the State, ensure that the

1 State's oral health program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2127 is data
2 driven, assess oral health disparities and track results of oral health studies and programs.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill concerns the Department of Health and Human Services' provision of oral
5 health services as follows:

6 1. It clarifies the requirement of the department to expand availability of school-based
7 preventive oral health services to public schools;

8 2. It allows the Legislature to report out legislation based on the annual report of the
9 department on the goal that children enrolled in the MaineCare program in all regions of
10 the State receive at least one preventive dental visit annually; and

11 3. It requires the department to work with the MaineCare Advisory Committee, dental
12 subcommittee to plan a pilot project for an oral health value-based payment model within
13 the MaineCare program that includes prevention, early intervention, disease management
14 and care coordination services for oral health services delivered in schools and early child
15 care settings and to report the plan to the Legislature.

16 The bill also makes permanent within the Maine Center for Disease Control and
17 Prevention's office of rural health and primary care the positions of oral health educator
18 and data and research analyst.