

May 16, 2000

S 1258. MEDICAID FUNDS/DENTAL CARE. *TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO INCREASE THE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR DENTAL CARE FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ENHANCE EFFORTS TO EXPAND DENTAL CARE FOR LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS IN THE STATE, AND TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE.* Appropriates \$4,600,000 for 2000-2001 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services, to be used to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for dental care for eligible children to 80% of the Usual and Customary Rate charged by North Carolina dentists. Effective January 1, 2001.

Appropriates \$500,000 for 2000-2001 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services, Office of Research, Demonstrations, and Rural Health Development, to be used for loan repayment to dentists who serve Medicaid and low-income patients in nonprofit dental programs. Requires that Sec'y of Health and Human Services establish task force named in title. Members shall include: Dean of the UNC-CH School of Dentistry or designee, the State Public Health Director or designee, and at least one representative from the NC Dental Society, the NC Medical Society, the Dental Hygiene Ass'n, the NC Institute of Medicine, and a consumer organization. Requires that task force make recommendations by February 1, 2001 on the availability of dentists in areas underserved for dental care, access to oral health care by children, and quality of dental services delivered to Medicaid patients. Effective July 1, 2000.

Intro. by Martin of Guilford.

Ref. to Health Care	APPROP
---------------------	--------

June 12, 2000

S 1258. MEDICAID \$/DENTAL CARE. Intro. 5/16/2000. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Replaces language requiring Sec'y of Health and Human Services to establish task force to study dental care needs with provision requiring sec'y to study dental care needs in consultation with State Public Health Director, representatives of UNC-CH School of Dentistry, and other medical and dental organizations. Requires sec'y to examine extent to which increase in Medicaid reimbursement rate is affecting number of Medicaid-eligible dentists' patients and number of dentists serving them; changes in quality of Medicaid patients' dental services, and related issues. Requires sec'y to report findings and recommendations by May 1, 2001, and by May 1, 2002, to chairs of Senate Appropriations Comm. on Human Resources, House Appropriations Subcomm. on Health and Human Services, Joint Legislative Healthcare Oversight Comm, Senate and House Health Comms., and Fiscal Research Div.