

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 60
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40040-NLa-5

Short Title: Modernize Medicaid Dental Rates.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Biggs.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODERNIZE MEDICAID DENTAL RATES.

3 Whereas, good oral health is vital to good overall health, and untreated oral health
4 conditions negatively affect overall health and have associations with chronic disease, including
5 diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, Alzheimer's disease, and even mental illness; and

6 Whereas, the failure to adjust reimbursement rates to account for increasing inflation
7 and costs over the last fifteen years has resulted in reduced dental provider participation in
8 Medicaid; and

9 Whereas, regular preventative dental care is the most cost effective method available
10 to prevent minor oral conditions from developing into more complex oral and physical health
11 conditions that would eventually require emergency and palliative care; and

12 Whereas, in order to improve overall health and access to quality care, increase
13 provider participation in Medicaid, and prevent future health conditions caused by overall health
14 problems, it is in the best interest of the State to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates paid to dental
15 care providers from 35% to 46% of the average dentist charges in 2023 in order to provide rates
16 that are comparable with the Medicaid rates of surrounding states; Now, therefore,
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
19 Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, the sum of fifty-two million dollars
20 (\$52,000,000) in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to be used to
21 increase the Medicaid rates paid for dental services. These funds shall provide a State match for
22 ninety-five million dollars (\$95,000,000) in recurring federal funds for each year of the
23 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, and those funds are appropriated to the Division of Health Benefits
24 for the same purpose.

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** The rate increases required by this section shall be implemented as
26 soon as practicable after July 1, 2025.

27 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.

