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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to dental services; amending s.
 409.973, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 Government Accountability to contract with an
 independent third party to conduct a study on the
 administration of dental services under the Medicaid
 program; specifying contents of the study; directing
 the office to provide a report to the Governor and
 Legislature by a specified date; authorizing the
 Legislature to use the report for certain purposes;
 providing an appropriation; providing an effective
 date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 409.973, Florida
 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection
 (6) is added to that section to read:

409.973 Benefits.—

(6) LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF DENTAL SERVICES.—The Legislature
 recognizes the importance of accessible, quality dental care for
 the overall health of children in the state. The Legislature
 further recognizes that families who rely on the Medicaid
 program for health care have unique challenges that, in the

26 | past, may have prevented many children from receiving the dental
27 | services they require. The Legislature also recognizes the
28 | importance of data-driven decisionmaking as it relates to oral
29 | care in the Medicaid program, and, accordingly, believes that
30 | independent, unbiased research is essential for determining how
31 | Medicaid resources may be allocated to achieve the best oral
32 | health outcomes for children in the state.

33 | (a) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
34 | Accountability shall contract with an independent third party
35 | with no prior or existing conflicts of interest and with
36 | relevant experience in providing dental services under the
37 | Medicaid program to compile a comprehensive, longitudinal study
38 | on the administration of dental services under this part. The
39 | study shall:

40 | 1. Examine and compare the effectiveness of the statewide
41 | Medicaid prepaid dental health program for children and adults
42 | in effect from 2019-2024 with the dental health program
43 | administered under the statewide Medicaid managed medical
44 | assistance program in effect from 2014-2019.

45 | 2. Compare the amount spent on dental services under each
46 | program and the effectiveness of each program in providing
47 | access to care, achieving patient satisfaction, and delivering
48 | services.

49 | 3. Examine provider satisfaction with each program and
50 | document historical trends related to provider participation in

51 the Medicaid prepaid dental health program and how that
52 participation impacts patient care.

53 4. Include an analysis of the economic benefits resulting
54 to the state from each program.

55 (b) By December 1, 2023, the Office of Program Policy
56 Analysis and Government Accountability shall provide a report of
57 the findings of the study to the Governor, the President of the
58 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

59 (c) The Legislature may use the findings in the report
60 when setting the scope of minimum benefits set forth in this
61 section for procurements that occur after January 1, 2024.

62 Section 2. For fiscal year 2017-2018, the sum of \$250,000
63 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of
64 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability for the
65 purpose of contracting with an independent third party to carry
66 out the requirements in s. 409.973(6), Florida Statutes, as
67 created by this act.

68 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.