

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to dentistry; requiring the Department
 3 of Health to conduct a study on the affordability,
 4 access, and delivery of dental care in this state;
 5 requiring the department to submit a report on the
 6 findings of the study to the Governor and Legislature
 7 by a specified date; providing for expiration of the
 8 study; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Study on affordability, access, and delivery of
 13 dental care.—

14 (1) The Department of Health shall conduct a comprehensive
 15 study on the status of affordability, access, and delivery of
 16 dental care in this state. The study must:

17 (a) Examine utilization data and delivery system gaps,
 18 including demographic and income disparities.

19 (b) Develop and evaluate policy proposals to address
 20 barriers to care, expedience of care delivery, and oral health
 21 outcomes for high-need and high-risk populations. Policy
 22 proposals must be peer-reviewed and address evidence of clinical
 23 outcomes and measures for increasing access to dental care for
 24 unserved or underserved populations.

25 (c) Examine workforce policies authorizing or increasing

26 | the number of mid-level dental providers such as expanded
27 | function dental assistants, community dental health
28 | coordinators, and dental therapists.

29 | (2) The department shall submit a report on the findings
30 | of the study that includes recommendations on improving the
31 | affordability, access, and delivery of dental care in this state
32 | to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
33 | the House of Representatives by December 31, 2018. The report
34 | must address any implementation burdens and the sustainability
35 | of each policy recommendation.

36 | (3) This act shall expire on January 31, 2019.

37 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.