

By Senator Smith

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Medicaid dental pilot program
for persons with disabilities; creating s. 409.9079,
F.S.; defining the term "persons with disabilities";
requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to
establish and operate a Medicaid dental pilot program
in a specified region to provide enhanced dental
services to persons with disabilities; specifying
eligibility for participation in the pilot program;
specifying dental services covered by the pilot
program; providing construction; requiring the agency
to reimburse dental providers under the pilot program
at a specified rate; providing for the delivery of
services under the pilot program through at least two
licensed dental managed care organizations meeting
certain criteria; requiring the agency to submit any
necessary state plan amendments or federal waiver
applications for federal approval; requiring the
agency to collect certain data on the pilot program;
requiring the agency to submit a report on the pilot
program to the Governor and the Legislature by a
specified date; providing for expiration of the pilot
program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 409.9079, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

409.9079 Medicaid dental pilot program for persons with

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disabilities in Region E.—

(1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term “persons with disabilities” means Medicaid-eligible individuals who:

(a) Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) on the basis of disability;

(b) Are enrolled in a home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver program under s. 1915(c) of the Social Security Act; or

(c) Meet federal disability criteria under 42 U.S.C. s. 1382c(a)(3), as determined by the Social Security Administration or the state Medicaid program.

(2) PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The agency shall establish and operate a 3-year Medicaid dental pilot program in Region E of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program to provide enhanced dental services to persons with disabilities.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—Participation in the pilot program is limited to persons with disabilities who reside in Region E and are enrolled in the Medicaid program.

(4) COVERED SERVICES.—

(a) Dental services provided under the pilot program must include all of the following:

1. Routine diagnostic and preventive care, including examinations, cleanings, and radiographs.

2. Basic dental services, including fillings and extractions.

3. Major dental services, including root canals, crowns, dentures, and other dental prostheses.

4. Emergency dental services.

5. Any additional dental services the agency determines are

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59 necessary to promote oral health and prevent disease.

60 (b) Services provided under this subsection supplement, and
61 do not replace, dental benefits available under ss. 409.906 and
62 409.973.

63 (5) REIMBURSEMENT.—The agency shall reimburse providers of
64 dental services under the pilot program at a rate equivalent to
65 80 percent of the 50th percentile of the 2024 Usual, Customary,
66 and Reasonable fees, as determined by the American Dental
67 Association or a comparable benchmark approved by the agency.

68 (6) MANAGED CARE PARTICIPATION.—The pilot program must be
69 delivered through at least two licensed dental managed care
70 organizations that meet agency standards and have demonstrated
71 experience in providing dental services to persons with
72 disabilities.

73 (7) FEDERAL APPROVAL.—The agency shall submit for federal
74 approval any Medicaid state plan amendments or federal waiver
75 applications necessary to implement the pilot program.

76 (8) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

77 (a) The agency shall collect pilot program data on all of
78 the following:

79 1. Access to dental care.

80 2. Utilization of services.

81 3. Reimbursement expenditures.

82 4. Oral health outcomes for participants.

83 (b) By January 1, 2029, the agency shall submit a report to
84 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
85 the House of Representatives evaluating the effectiveness of the
86 pilot program and recommending whether it should be expanded
87 statewide.

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88 (9) EXPIRATION.—This section expires June 30, 2029.
 89 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.