

By Senator Smith

17-01369A-26

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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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30 disabilities in Region E.-

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

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

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

38 (c) Meet federal disability criteria under 42 U.S.C. s.
39 1382c(a)(3), as determined by the Social Security Administration
40 or the state Medicaid program.

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

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

48 (4) COVERED SERVICES.—

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

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

53 2. Basic dental services, including fillings and
54 extractions.

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

57 4. Emergency dental services.

58 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:

1. Access to dental care.
2. Utilization of services.
3. Reimbursement expenditures.
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.