



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 382

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5636

House of Representatives, March 31, 2004

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. FELTMAN of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ORAL HEALTH CARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Commissioner of Public
2 Health shall establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of assisting
3 the commissioner in examining and evaluating possible statutory
4 changes that would improve (1) access to oral health care, particularly
5 by persons who are underinsured, uninsured or on Medicaid, and (2)
6 the quality of oral health care. The committee shall hold its first
7 meeting not later than July 15, 2004. The committee shall focus on
8 examining statutory changes that would meet the goals of improving
9 access to and quality of oral health care by facilitating the use of dental
10 hygienists as midlevel providers in public settings, considering the
11 administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide by dental
12 hygienists, expanding the functions of dental assistants, requiring
13 continuing education for dentists, revising the definition of dentistry,
14 considering a post-graduate year as an alternative to an examination as
15 a requirement for licensure for dentists. Other topics may be included

16 at the discretion of the commissioner.

17 (b) (1) The ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the
 18 commissioner and shall consist of (A) two members of the Department
 19 of Public Health, (B) four dentists recommended by the Connecticut
 20 Dental Association, one of whom works in private practice, one of
 21 whom works in a public practice, one of whom is an educator and one
 22 of whom is a maxillofacial surgeon, (C) four dental hygienists
 23 recommended by the Connecticut Dental Hygienists Association, one
 24 of whom works in private practice, one of whom works in a public
 25 practice, one of whom is an educator and one of whom works in a
 26 school-based dental setting, and (D) a representative from a regionally
 27 accredited institution of higher education that offers a program for
 28 dental assistants. The Commissioners of Public Health and Social
 29 Services, or their designees shall be ex-officio members with full voting
 30 rights.

31 (2) The Commissioner of Public Health may expand the
 32 membership of the ad hoc committee to include representatives from
 33 related fields if the commissioner decides such expansion would be
 34 useful.

35 (c) On or before December 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Public
 36 Health shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
 37 statutes, the results of the examination, with specific recommendations
 38 for statutory changes, to the Governor and the joint standing
 39 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 40 relating to public health.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In subsection (a) of section 1, "shall meet" was changed to "shall hold its first meeting" to clarify the meaning of the sentence.

PH Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is anticipated that the Departments of Public Health and Social Services will be able to participate as members of the ad hoc committee within each agency's respective anticipated budgetary resources. The DPH will be able to submit results and recommendations without requiring additional resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5636

AN ACT CONCERNING ORAL HEALTH CARE

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 19 Nay 0