



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5636

February Session, 2004

* HB05636PH 031704 *

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*