



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 91**

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7122

*House of Representatives, March 21, 2019*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, (1) "mobile dental clinic" means preventative or restorative  
3 dental services offered by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist from a  
4 van or through the use of portable equipment at various locations, and  
5 (2) "fixed location" means the permanent office of an associated dentist  
6 licensed pursuant to chapter 379 of the general statutes, who contracts  
7 with a mobile dental clinic and (A) is enrolled as a Medicaid provider;  
8 (B) maintains the diagnostic imaging, tests and charts of patients  
9 treated by the mobile dental clinic; (C) accepts and treats patients from  
10 the mobile dental clinic; and (D) provides a continuum of dental care.

11 (b) A mobile dental clinic may submit claims for Medicaid  
12 reimbursement to the Department of Social Services for dental  
13 treatment of Medicaid beneficiaries that occurred not more than thirty  
14 miles from the associated dentist's fixed location, except that a mobile

15 dental clinic located in the counties of New London, Litchfield and  
 16 Windham may submit claims for Medicaid reimbursement to the  
 17 Department of Social Services for dental treatment of Medicaid  
 18 beneficiaries that occurred not more than fifty miles from the dentist's  
 19 fixed location.

20 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations in  
 21 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to  
 22 implement the provisions of this section. The commissioner may adopt  
 23 policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this section  
 24 while in the process of adopting regulations, provided such policies  
 25 and procedures are published on the eRegulations System before such  
 26 policies and procedures are implemented.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b), "provided" was changed to "except" and in Section 1(c) "in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes" was inserted after "regulations" for accuracy and consistency with statutory drafting conventions.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill may result in a cost to the Department of Social Services' Medicaid program to the extent the provisions of the bill increase the utilization of dental services by Medicaid beneficiaries who otherwise would not have utilized the services. For context, in FY 18, the gross cost of dental services for Medicaid beneficiaries was \$189.6 million. Approximately 201,000 members or approximately 24% of the total Medicaid program saw a dental provider.<sup>1</sup>

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject the potential increase in utilization of dental services.

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Benecare Report*, 2/8/19. Council of Medical Assistance Program Oversight.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 7122**

***AN ACT CONCERNING MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill authorizes the Department of Social Services (DSS) to reimburse a mobile dental clinic for dental services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries within 30 miles of the associated dentist's fixed location. The bill extends the reimbursable service area to a 50 mile radius for mobile dental clinics located in New London, Litchfield, and Windham counties.

The bill also authorizes the DSS commissioner to implement policies and procedures about mobile dental clinics while in the process of adopting them in regulations, provided he posts the policies and procedures on the state eRegulations system before implementing them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**DEFINITIONS**

The bill defines a "mobile dental clinic" as preventative or restorative dental services offered by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist from a van or through the use of portable equipment at various locations.

It also defines a "fixed location" as the permanent office of an associated licensed dentist who contracts with a mobile dental clinic and:

1. is an enrolled Medicaid provider;
2. maintains the diagnostic imaging, tests, and charts of patients the mobile dental clinic treats;

3. accepts and treats patients from the mobile dental clinic; and
4. provides a continuum of dental care.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/07/2019)