
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1299

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID-COVERED DENTAL CARE.

SUMMARY

This bill expands nonemergency adult dental services for medical assistance recipients by (1) excluding prevention services (e.g., oral exams and dental cleaning) from the \$1,000 annual cap on medical assistance payments and (2) including coverage for periodontal therapy and two, rather than one, dental cleanings per year.

Existing law allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement policies and procedures on nonemergency adult dental services while adopting regulations. The bill conforms law to practice by requiring DSS to post notice of intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system rather than in the Connecticut Law Journal and makes technical changes to delete obsolete provisions.

The bill also prohibits DSS from requiring that mobile dental clinics, school-based health centers, and expanded school health sites provide separate dental services and procedures to a patient in a single visit as a condition for Medicaid payment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

SINGLE VISITS FOR MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

The bill prohibits DSS from requiring certain clinics and health centers to provide separate dental services to a patient in a single visit. This applies to the following facilities:

1. mobile dental clinics, which are preventative or restorative dental services offered by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist from a van or using portable equipment at various locations, and
2. school-based health centers and expanded school health sites,

which are health centers located in a school facility, organized through school, community, and health provider relationships, and administered by a sponsoring facility.

School-based health centers provide comprehensive on-site medical and behavioral health services. Expanded school health sites provide medical or behavioral health services (e.g., dental services, health education, and health screening).

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to make a Medicaid payment for each Medicaid-eligible service provided by the facilities. It prohibits her from requiring reimbursement through a bundled payment methodology that makes one aggregate payment for separate dental services and procedures.

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the bill's single visit provision and authorizes her to implement policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations. Policies and procedures remain in effect until regulations are adopted. She must post notice of her intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system within 20 days of implementing them.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/04/2025)