
CHAPTER 305—S.F.No.1097**[Not Coded]**

An act relating to public welfare; providing for pilot programs for dental care for senior citizens; establishing means of administration; subsidizing premiums to cover cost of services; appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. PUBLIC WELFARE; DENTAL CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS; PILOT PROGRAM; PURPOSE. The purpose of the pilot dental program is to determine the need for and the feasibility of establishing a statewide dental program for eligible senior citizens, the optimal methods of providing dental service, whether the provision of dental services causes the general health of the participants to be improved and whether the provision of dental services to the eligible senior citizens provides comparable benefits to society as if provided to others.

Sec. 2. PILOT PROGRAMS; ESTABLISHMENT. The commissioner of public welfare, hereinafter the commissioner, shall establish two pilot programs to provide dental care to senior citizens. One pilot program shall be established in the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Washington, Dakota, Scott, and Carver counties; and one pilot program shall be established in an area selected by the commissioner and located outside of the seven metropolitan counties.

Sec. 3. ADMINISTRATION. The pilot programs shall be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner shall appoint a seven member advisory task force to advise the commissioner on the operation of the pilot programs. All of the members of the advisory task force shall be senior citizens. The compensation of members, their removal from office, and the filling of vacancies shall be as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Section 15.059.

Sec. 4. SERVICE CONTRACTS; REVIEW. Subdivision 1. **SERVICE CONTRACTS.** For each pilot program, the commissioner shall contract for the provision and financing of dental services under the terms set forth in this act. The commissioner may contract (a) with an insurance company regulated under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 62A, or a nonprofit health service plan corporation regulated under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 62C, or a health maintenance organization established pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 62D; or (b) directly with one or more qualified providers of dental services. The party or parties with whom the commissioner contracts under clause (a) shall be known as the dental carriers. All participants in the pilot programs shall have a free choice of vendor for the delivery of dental services.

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Subd. 2. **REVIEW.** The commissioner and the dental carriers shall monitor the pilot programs. Review of the extent and quality of dental service provided shall be done only by one or more licensed dentists.

Subd. 3. **EVALUATION AND REPORT.** The commissioner shall evaluate and report the results of the pilot programs to the legislature by January 2, 1978, and each year thereafter for five years. The reports shall include but not be limited to: (a) the optimal methods of providing dental services including the cost effectiveness of each pilot program; (b) the effect, if any, upon the general health of the individual receiving the dental services; (c) the extent and quality of dental services provided by the pilot program; (d) the number of participants in each pilot program; and (e) the types of dental care most used or needed by the participants.

Sec. 5. **ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.** Subdivision 1. The commissioner shall select participants for each pilot program from among the applicants who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in subdivision 2. At least ten percent of the senior citizens selected by the commissioner for participation in each pilot program must be residents of a nursing home.

Subd. 2. **FULL SUBSIDY.** The full cost of premiums for participation in a pilot program shall be paid by the commissioner for individuals who live in an area to be serviced by a pilot program and who:

(a) Are not eligible to receive dental services or reimbursement for dental services under any other program authorized by law, or who do not have coverage for dental services from an insurance company, a nonprofit service plan corporation, or a health maintenance organization; and

(b) Are retired and aged 62 or over; and

(c) Have an annual net income of less than \$3,900 if single, or \$4,875 if married.

Sec. 6. **SERVICES AND PAYMENT.** Subdivision 1. **SERVICES COVERED.** Services to be made available to participants in each pilot program shall include the following if provided or prescribed by a licensed dentist:

(a) routine examinations,

(b) x-rays,

(c) emergency treatment for relief of pain,

(d) restorative services,

(e) oral surgery, including preoperative and postoperative care,

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(f) surgical and nonsurgical periodontics,

(g) endodontics, including pulpal therapy and root canal filling,
and

(h) prosthetics.

Subd. 2. **PAYMENT.** The cost of the dental services, equal to at least 80 percent of the usual, customary and reasonable fee of the treating dentist, will be paid by the dental carrier, or if the commissioner has contracted directly with the provider of the services, by the commissioner, with no deductible amount. Participants shall be responsible for the remaining 20 percent of the fee and for any amounts in excess of the limits set forth in subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. **LIMITATION.** No services shall be provided nor shall *any payment for services be made by the commissioner or by a dental carrier* in excess of \$500 per participant per year.

Sec. 7. **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS.** Subdivision 1. The commissioner shall have access to all financial data of each dental carrier relating to the pilot programs.

Subd. 2. **PROFIT.** Any amount of profit earned by a dental carrier over ten percent of the total annual premiums, after payment of claims and administrative expenses, shall be returned by the dental carrier to the commissioner.

Sec. 8. **OUTSIDE FUNDING.** The commissioner shall investigate the availability of additional public and private funding for the purposes of this act. The commissioner may solicit and accept, on behalf of the pilot programs established pursuant to this act, contributions, gifts, and grants from any public or private sources.

Sec. 9. **APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated from the general fund of the state treasury the sum of \$400,000 to the commissioner for the biennium ending June 30, 1977, for the purposes of this act. No more than 55 percent of the appropriation shall be expended for each pilot program established in section 2 of this act.

Sec. 10. This act shall expire June 30, 1977. ;

Approved April 13, 1976.

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