

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

Date: May 3, 2021  
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services  
From: Erin Dooling, Esq., Legislative Analyst

**LD 1501 An Act To Protect Oral Health for Children in Maine**

**SUMMARY:** This bill:

- Changes the legislative goal from ensuring that children on Medicaid receive the same level of services as children with dental insurance to ensuring that all children in the State with Medicaid receive at least one annual preventive dental visit. (*Sec. 2*)
- Requires DHHS to expand the preventive oral health services provided in schools through the school oral health program of the Maine CDC to all schools in the State on a rolling basis to be compliant with the law by January 1, 2025. (*Sec. 1 & 4*)
- Requires DHHS to include in its annual report on dental services to children under MaineCare, a report on the expansion of oral health services provided in schools and methods for maximization of Medicaid funding as permitted by federal law for oral health staff positions and school-based oral health services. The date of the annual report is changed from February 15 to December 1 of each year. (*Sec. 3*)
- Requires DHHS, no later than July 1, 2022, to begin a pilot project for an oral health value-based payment model within MaineCare that includes prevention, early intervention, disease management and care coordination services for oral health services delivered in schools and early child care settings. The pilot project must last no less than 24 months. DHHS is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the results of the pilot project. (*Sec. 5*)
- Provides funding for an Oral Health Coordinator in DHHS to lead the Maine CDC's public health functions related to oral health. (*Sec. 6*)

## **SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS FROM TESTIMONY:**

- *Maine Dental Association:*
  - Track and measure impact of oral health programs by adding the functions of data analysis, performance management reporting, program planning and evaluation to assess the programs and pilots
  - Annual reporting on the number of MaineCare-eligible children accessing the School Oral Health Program and referred to a dental office for additional necessary treatment
  - Develop a postcard mailer with a perforated permission slip on the services provided by the school oral health program and dates of service
  - Dentist to serve in an advisory capacity to the statewide oral health coordinator on an as-needed basis

## **DRAFTING ISSUES:**

- *Consider:* Adding legislative authority to report out legislation as a result of receiving the report on value-based purchasing

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE:**

- *Submitted to DHHS:* Reports required pursuant to [P.L. 2019, ch. 546, § 1](#) and [22 M.R.S. § 3174-S\(4\)](#)

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Not yet determined