



SPONSOR: Sen. Townsend & Sen. Poore & Sen. McBride &  
Sen. McDowell & Rep. Bentz & Rep. Minor-Brown &  
Rep. Heffernan  
Sens. Ennis, Hansen, Lockman, Paradee, Sturgeon; Reps.  
Baumbach, Brady, Dorsey Walker, K. Johnson, Kowalko,  
Lynn, Mitchell

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 92

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DENTAL CARE FOR ADULT  
MEDICAID RECIPIENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 502, Title 31 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 502. Definitions.

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (2) "Assistance" means assistance to or on behalf of eligible needy persons or eligible families to enable them  
6 to improve their standard of living, including money payments, child care, job training, education, other support  
7 services, medical or surgical care, dental care, nursing, burial, board and care in a private institution, adult foster care,  
8 rest residential facility for adults, public medical institution as a patient, or such other aid as may be deemed necessary.

9 (5) "Medical assistance" means medical or dental care furnished on behalf of recipients who are eligible for  
10 assistance in any of the categories in § 505 of this title.

11 (7) "Dental care" means payment of all or part of the costs on behalf of an eligible recipient for preventive and  
12 restorative treatment which the Department of Health and Social Services authorizes by regulation.

13 (7)(8) "Recipient" means any person or family to whom or for whom assistance is paid under this chapter.

14 (8)(9) "Standard of need" means the subsistence level for a decent standard of living established by  
15 regulations of the Department of Health and Social Services.

16 (9)(10) "Unemployable" means not employable.

17 (10)(11) "Underemployment" and "unemployment" means as defined ~~pursuant to~~ under regulations of the  
18 Department of Health and Social Services in consultation with the Department of Labor.

19 Section 2. Amend § 503, Title 31 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
20 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

21 § 503. Eligibility for assistance; amount; method of payment.

22 (b) *Medicaid*. —

23 (1) Medical assistance may be granted to medically and financially eligible persons in accordance with Titles  
24 IV-A, IV-E, XVI, and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 601 et seq., ~~670 et seq.~~, 1381 et seq., and 1396 et  
25 seq.), federally approved waivers of these sections of the act, and rules and regulations established by the Department  
26 of Health and Social Services. Eligibility for and payment of medical assistance ~~shall~~ must be determined under  
27 policies and regulations established by the Department of Health and Social Services. Eligibility standards, recipient  
28 ~~copay~~ copay, and provider reimbursement ~~shall~~ must be set in accordance with state and federal mandates, state and  
29 federal funding levels, approved ~~wavers~~ wavers, and rules and regulations established by the Department. The amount  
30 of assistance in each case of medical care must not duplicate any other coverage or payment made or available for the  
31 costs of such health services and supplies. To the extent permitted by federal requirements, no annual or lifetime  
32 numerical limitations may be placed on physical therapy or chiropractic care visits that are for the purpose of treating  
33 back pain.

34 (2)a. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2)b. of this section, the amount of assistance provided to an  
35 adult recipient for dental care must not exceed \$1,000 per year.

36 b. The Department may establish a review process through which extra benefit dollars, not exceeding an  
37 additional \$1,500 per adult recipient, may be authorized on an emergency basis for dental care treatments.

38 c. All payments for dental care treatments are subject to a \$3 copay for adult recipients.

39 Section 3. Amend § 505, Title 31 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
40 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

41 § 505. Consumer Protection Fund [Effective Jan. 1, 2020]

42 Assistance may be granted, in accordance with rules and regulations established by the Department of Health and  
43 Social Services pursuant to § 503 of this title, in the following categories:

44 (3) *Medicaid assistance*; assistance granted in the form of medical ~~care~~ care, including dental care, to  
45 individuals eligible in accordance with Title IV-A, XVI, XIX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. §§ 601 et seq.,  
46 1381 et seq., and 1396 et seq.], federally approved waivers, and rules and regulations established by the Department of  
47 Health and Social Services.

48 Section 4. Amend § 512, Title 31 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
49 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

50 § 512. Administration.

51 The Department shall administer this chapter and in connection therewith shall:

52 (7) Guarantee that assistance provided as medical ~~care~~care, including dental care, when paid to providers of  
53 such medical care ~~shall be~~is on a prompt basis, usually not later than 30 days from the report of services by a  
54 physician, ~~pharmacist~~pharmacist, or other professional health care provider, or 20 days from the report of services by a  
55 hospital or skilled nursing facility; provided, however, that should financial advances from the Department of Finance  
56 be necessary to carry out this chapter, they ~~shall~~must be permitted upon the concurrence of the Secretary of the  
57 Department of Finance and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services.

58 Section 5. This Act takes effect on April 1, 2020.

#### SYNOPSIS

Delaware is one of only 3 states that does not offer some form of adult dental coverage through Medicaid (alongside Tennessee and Alabama).

Dental care is health care. And, studies have shown that poor dental health care can result in serious infections and abscess in the face, neck, and jaw areas requiring some individuals to go to the emergency room where they may spend days in intensive care or even die. This ultimately costs states more money through their Medicaid program that could be saved if dental care were covered.

This Act expands Delaware's Public Assistance Code to provide dental care to all eligible adult Medicaid recipients. Payments for dental care treatments are subject to a \$3 recipient copay and the total amount of dental care assistance provided to an eligible recipient may not exceed \$1,000 per year, except that an additional \$1,500 may be authorized on an emergency basis for dental care treatments through a review process established by the Department of Health and Social Services.

This Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

This Substitute Act differs from Senate Bill No. 92 (150th General Assembly) because it changes the effective date of this Act to be April 1, 2020, and removes provisions made unnecessary by the change.

Author: Senator Townsend