

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE BILL

## No. 2347

 Session of  
2002

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLI, THOMAS, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CASORIO, CAWLEY, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, EACHUS, FAIRCHILD, FEESE, HARHAI, HERMAN, JAMES, JOSEPHS, LAUGHLIN, LEH, LEVDANSKY, MAHER, MARKOSEK, MCGEEHAN, MCILHATTAN, MYERS, NAILOR, PALLONE, PICKETT, ROSS, RUBLEY, SATHER, SAYLOR, SHANER, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TRELLO, WATERS, WATSON, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD, HENNESSEY, STEELMAN, KAISER, MACKERETH, WASHINGTON AND G. WRIGHT, FEBRUARY 6, 2002

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
MAY 6, 2002

## AN ACT

1 Directing the Department of Public Welfare to resolve the  
2 shortage of appropriate accessible dental care services for  
3 ~~individuals with mental retardation residing in the~~ <—  
4 ~~community.~~ CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. <—

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Dental Care  
9 for Individuals with Mental Retardation Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the  
15 Commonwealth.

1     ~~"Eligible population." Individuals who are receiving~~ <—  
2     ~~services through county mental retardation programs.~~

3     "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS." INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVE SERVICES <—  
4     THROUGH COUNTY MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAMS OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
5     FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

6     "Health Care Quality Unit" or "HCQU." Entities established  
7     through the Office of Mental Retardation in the Department of  
8     Public Welfare which are responsible to county mental  
9     retardation programs for the overall health status of  
10    individuals receiving services in the county programs.

11   Section 3. General rule.

12   The department, in consultation with the Department of Health  
13   and the Pennsylvania Dental Association, through HCQUs, shall:

14       (1) Assess the availability and accessibility of  
15       appropriate dental care for eligible individuals, INCLUDING <—  
16       ANY SPECIAL NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN RURAL OR  
17       MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

18       (2) Assess the training needs of dentists and dental  
19       professionals in treating eligible individuals and develop  
20       training programs as appropriate.

21       (3) Provide education and technical assistance to  
22       counties to access existing State grants and other resources  
23       to develop dental services for eligible individuals.

24       (4) Provide technical assistance to counties in  
25       developing appropriate dental services for eligible  
26       individuals.

27   Section 4. Part-time provision.

28   A part-time consulting dentist shall be included as part of  
29   the recommended staffing for the HCQU serving a single county or  
30   multicounty partnership.

1 Section 5. Duty of department.

2 ~~The department shall provide eligible individuals who reside~~ <—  
3 ~~in the community access to dental care in State operated mental~~  
4 ~~retardation centers if there is no other accessible appropriate~~  
5 ~~dental care available in the eligible individual's community.~~

6 (A) MENTAL RETARDATION PATIENTS.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL <—  
7 PROVIDE MENTAL RETARDATION PATIENTS WHO RESIDE IN THE COMMUNITY  
8 ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE IN STATE-OPERATED MENTAL RETARDATION  
9 CENTERS IF THERE IS NO OTHER ACCESSIBLE APPROPRIATE DENTAL CARE  
10 AVAILABLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

11 (B) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PATIENTS.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO  
12 PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PATIENTS WHO RESIDE IN THE COMMUNITY  
13 ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE IF THERE IS NO OTHER ACCESSIBLE  
14 APPROPRIATE DENTAL CARE AVAILABLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

15 Section 6. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect in 60 days.