

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1882

Session of  
1985

INTRODUCED BY WESTON, BARBER, DORR, ARTY, KENNEY, KOSINSKI,  
JOHNSON, HALUSKA, BRANDT, DOMBROWSKI, ACOSTA, COHEN,  
KUKOVICH, OLASZ, CALTAGIRONE, JACKSON, COLAFELLA, BATTISTO,  
DISTLER, RAYMOND, PERZEL, KASUNIC, DEAL, TRELLO, TELEK,  
DeLUCA, GRUPPO, PRATT, AFFLERBACH, ANGSTADT, DALEY, SERAFINI,  
STABACK, ITKIN, PRESTON, TIGUE, R. C. WRIGHT, MARKOSEK,  
HARPER, VAN HORNE, WOGAN, McHALE, SEVENTY, VEON, NAHILL,  
TRUMAN, FATTAH, E. Z. TAYLOR, FOX, MAIALE, PETRARCA, CIVERA,  
J. TAYLOR, BELARDI AND LAUGHLIN, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 19, 1986

## AN ACT

1 Establishing a program of dentistry for the homebound; imposing  
2 powers and duties on the Department of Health; ~~imposing~~ <—  
3 ~~powers and duties on the State Dental Council and Examining~~  
4 ~~Board~~; and making an appropriation.

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 Dentistry for  
9 the Homebound Act.

10 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 (1) A significant segment of the population of this  
13 Commonwealth is unable to obtain dental care because of  
14 physical inability, either temporarily or permanently, to  
15 travel to a dentist's office. This includes senior citizens

1 and persons who have a handicap, disability, illness or  
2 condition which severely restricts mobility.

3 (2) Homebound persons ~~are to be provided with~~ SHOULD <—  
4 HAVE ACCESS TO proper and adequate dental care at a  
5 reasonable cost.

6 (3) Provision is to be made for special training needed  
7 to administer the proper and adequate dental care to  
8 homebound persons at a reasonable cost.

9 Section 3. Definitions.

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

13 ~~"Board." The State Dental Council and Examining Board.~~ <—

14 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

15 "Homebound person." A noninstitutionalized person who is  
16 disabled, either temporarily or permanently, to an extent that  
17 prevents the person from leaving the residence to secure proper  
18 dental care.

19 "Program." The dental care program established by the  
20 department under section 4.

21 Section 4. Program.

22 (a) General rule.--The department ~~and the board~~ shall <—  
23 establish a program for providing homebound persons with proper  
24 and adequate dental care. <—

25 ~~(b) Board. The board shall attempt to develop homebound~~ AND <—  
26 SHALL ENCOURAGE dentistry FOR THE HOMEBOUND as an important <—  
27 field in the professional practice of dentistry. To accomplish  
28 this the ~~board~~ DEPARTMENT has the following powers and duties: <—

29 (1) To encourage the profession to accept and ~~respect~~ <—  
30 PRACTICE homebound dentistry. <—

1           (2) To ~~establish, by regulation, as part of continuing~~ <—  
2     ~~professional education requirements, a training program~~  
3     ENCOURAGE PROGRAMS on homebound dentistry dealing with: <—  
4           (i) Physical and psychological needs of homebound  
5     persons.  
6           (ii) Specific skills needed to practice dentistry in  
7     a home environment.  
8           (iii) Special equipment necessary to practice  
9     dentistry in a home environment.  
10    ~~(e)~~ (B) Department.--The department shall make the program <—  
11    available, at Commonwealth expense, to citizens of this  
12    Commonwealth who cannot afford the program. In order to do this,  
13    the department has the following powers and duties:  
14           (1) Promulgate regulations to:  
15               (i) Define, after consultation with the Department  
16               of Aging, eligibility to participate in the program at  
17               Commonwealth expense.  
18               (ii) Determine services which are covered at  
19               Commonwealth expense.  
20               (iii) Set fees to be paid by the Commonwealth for  
21               services under the program.  
22           (2) Enter into contracts with organizations, group  
23    practices and individuals to provide program services, at  
24    Commonwealth expense, under paragraph (1).  
25    ~~(d)~~ (C) Pilot project.--In order to execute subsection ~~(e)~~ <—  
26    (B), the department shall begin with a pilot project, under <—  
27    subsection ~~(e)~~ (B), in a selected area of this Commonwealth for <—  
28    a period of one year. At the end of the year, the department  
29    shall report on the pilot project to the General Assembly. The  
30    department shall then make necessary adjustments to execute

1 subsection ~~(e)~~ (B) on a Statewide basis.

2 Section 5. Appropriation.

3       The sum of \$50,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,  
4 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Health for the  
5 fiscal year July 1, 1985, to June 30, 1986, to carry out the  
6 provisions of this act.

7 Section 6. Effective date.

8       This act shall take effect in 60 days.