
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 68 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, OWLETT, ZIMMERMAN, GAYDOS, CONKLIN, PICKETT,
HILL-EVANS, WEBSTER, WHEELAND AND STAMBAUGH, MARCH 1, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 1, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study to review the availability of dental services
3 in rural areas of this Commonwealth and to provide a report
4 detailing the options for improving access to oral health
5 care services.

6 WHEREAS, Lack of oral health care services leads to a greater
7 risk of chronic illnesses and poor health outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, Teledentistry can be practiced in many ways,
9 including video consultations, provider education courses and
10 patient monitoring to address a patient's oral health; and

11 WHEREAS, Teledentistry is practiced in 23 states, with most
12 of those states allowing Medicaid agencies to authorize
13 reimbursement for teledentistry services; and

14 WHEREAS, Preventive dental care and treatment reduces
15 expenditures to treat other chronic and serious conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, Mobile dentistry has become a valuable tool in
17 delivering oral health care services to rural Pennsylvanians;

18 and

19 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians, including residents enrolled in

1 medical assistance, living in rural areas or experiencing
2 disabilities, are frequently unable to find or see a dentist or
3 pay for dental care; and

4 WHEREAS, Increasing the availability and lowering the cost of
5 oral health care services is vital to meet the oral health
6 demands of residents of this Commonwealth who live in rural
7 areas; and

8 WHEREAS, At least 40 state Medicaid programs reimburse for
9 mobile dental services; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
11 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study to
12 review the availability of dental services in rural areas of
13 this Commonwealth and to provide a report detailing the options
14 for improving access to oral health care services; and

15 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's
16 report include an examination of the costs of oral health care
17 services for residents of this Commonwealth who live in rural
18 areas and lack access to oral health care services; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's
21 report include recommendations to present options for how
22 teledentistry and mobile dentistry could expand access to oral
23 health care services for residents of this Commonwealth who live
24 in rural areas; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
26 submit its report to the members of the House of Representatives
27 within 18 months of the adoption of this resolution.