

House Bill 2979

Sponsored by Representative HAYDEN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to establish review process for medical assistance reimbursement rates for costs of dental services. Requires authority to prescribe standard reporting, claims and prior authorization request forms for dentists serving medical assistance recipients.

Requires authority to provide types and scope of dental services in Health Care for All Oregon Children program to youth up to age 26 and to citizens of island nations in Compact of Free Association who reside in Oregon and meet financial requirements for medical assistance.

Requires authority to administer student loan forgiveness program to make payments toward student loan debt for dentists who treat at least 200 medical assistance patients per calendar year.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to dental services; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2, 5 and 6 of this 2021 Act shall be known as and cited to as the**
5 **Dental Management Delivery Act for the 21st Century.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, “coordinated care organization” and “medical**
7 **assistance” have the meanings given those terms in ORS 414.025.**

8 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a process to review the reimbursement**
9 **rates paid for dental services provided to medical assistance recipients on a fee-for-service**
10 **basis or by coordinated care organizations to ensure that the rates are adequate to enlist**
11 **sufficient dentists to provide timely access to dental services for all medical assistance re-**
12 **ipients throughout this state. The authority shall consult with stakeholders in developing**
13 **the rate review process.**

14 **(3) The authority shall review the reimbursement rates using the process established in**
15 **subsection (1) of this section at least annually and prior to any proposed decrease in the**
16 **rates.**

17 **(4) The authority shall adopt standard forms that must be accepted by all coordinated**
18 **care organizations and by the authority for dentists to report information, make claims for**
19 **reimbursement or request prior authorization.**

20 **(5) The authority shall encourage all coordinated care organizations to agree to a com-**
21 **mon set of prior authorization requirements.**

22 **SECTION 3. The Oregon Health Authority shall report to the Legislative Assembly during**
23 **the 2022 regular session, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, on:**

24 **(1) The rate review process and the results of the review under section 2 of this 2021 Act;**
25 **and**

26 **(2) How the medical assistance reimbursement rates for dental services in this state**
27 **compare to rates paid in other states and by commercial insurers.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 4.** Section 5 of this 2021 Act is added to and made part of ORS chapter 414.

2 **SECTION 5.** (1) As used in this section, “COFA citizen” means an individual who is a
3 citizen of:

- 4 (a) The Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- 5 (b) The Federated States of Micronesia; or
- 6 (c) The Republic of Palau.

7 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall provide the same types and scope of dental ser-
8 vices that are provided in the Health Care for All Oregon Children program to youth under
9 the age of 26 and COFA citizens who:

- 10 (a) Reside in this state; and
- 11 (b) Meet the financial requirements for medical assistance.

12 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall administer a student loan forgiveness
13 program for dentists who treat at least 200 medical assistance recipients in a calendar year.
14 The program shall make payments from \$10,000 to \$20,000 toward a dentist’s student loan
15 debt based on the number of medical assistance recipients the dentist treated in the prior
16 calendar year.

17 (2) The authority shall prescribe the application and reporting requirements for the pro-
18 gram. If the funds appropriated to the authority to administer the student loan forgiveness
19 program are insufficient to provide payments to all applicants who qualify for the payments,
20 the authority shall give priority to dentists in rural and medically underserved areas.

21 **SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
22 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the
23 General Fund, the amount of \$_____, for student loan payments under the student loan
24 forgiveness program established by section 6 of this 2021 Act.

25 **SECTION 8.** Sections 5 and 6 of this 2021 Act become operative on January 1, 2022.

26 **SECTION 9.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
27 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
28 July 1, 2021.