

# SENATE BILL 431

J1

5lr1530  
CF HB 355

---

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Dental Services for Adults – Coverage and Access**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning on a certain date, the Maryland Medical  
4 Assistance Program to provide dental services to postpartum women during a certain  
5 period; requiring that certain dental services for postpartum women be included as  
6 a benefit under a certain program under the Program; requiring the Department of  
7 Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with certain entities, to work with  
8 stakeholders to identify certain options for expanding access to dental services;  
9 requiring the Department to report its findings to certain committees of the General  
10 Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to coverage of and access  
11 to dental services for adults.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Health – General  
14 Section 15–103(a)(1) and (2)(ii) and (b)(1) and (2)(i)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Health – General  
19 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xi) and (xii) and (b)(2)(v)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

22 BY adding to  
23 Article – Health – General  
24 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xiii)  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General**

15–103.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

(2) The Program:

(ii) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget, comprehensive medical and other health care services for all eligible pregnant women whose family income is at or below 250 percent of the poverty level, as permitted by the federal law;

(xi) May include bedside nursing care for eligible Program recipients;

[and]

(xii) Shall provide services in accordance with funding restrictions included in the annual State budget bill; AND

**(XIII) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016, SHALL PROVIDE, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, A DENTAL SERVICE TO A POSTPARTUM WOMAN DURING THE PERIOD THE POSTPARTUM WOMAN IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS.**

(b) (1) As permitted by federal law or waiver, the Secretary may establish a program under which Program recipients are required to enroll in managed care organizations.

(2) (i) The benefits required by the program developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be adopted by regulation and shall be equivalent to the benefit level required by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program on January 1, 1996.

(v) Notwithstanding subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the benefits required by the program developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include [dental]:

1. **DENTAL** services for pregnant women; AND

2. **DENTAL SERVICES FOR POSTPARTUM WOMEN THAT THE PROGRAM IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2)(XIII) OF THIS SECTION.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health  
2 and Mental Hygiene shall:

3 (1) in conjunction with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and the  
4 Maryland Insurance Administration, work with stakeholders to identify short-term and  
5 long-term options for expanding access to dental services for adults, including older adults;  
6 and

7 (2) on or before December 31, 2015, report its findings to the Senate  
8 Finance Committee and House Health and Government Operations Committee, in  
9 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2015.