
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2905

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives J. Johnson, Riccelli, Caldier, Doglio, Pollet, and Ryu)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing outreach and engagement with access
2 to baby and child dentistry programs; adding a new section to chapter
3 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that oral
6 disease is the most common childhood chronic disease, yet is almost
7 entirely preventable, impacting school readiness, future
8 employability, and overall well-being and quality of life. The access
9 to baby and child dentistry program has made Washington a leader in
10 oral health care access across the nation, providing greater levels
11 of access and utilization for medicaid eligible children under six
12 years old. The legislature further recognizes that the access to baby
13 and child dentistry program connects children to a dental home in
14 their communities, enabling children to get off to a healthy start.
15 While the state has made great strides, children of color continue to
16 experience higher rates of tooth decay than their peers and children
17 under the age of two are not accessing care at the same rate as older
18 children. Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to expand on the
19 program investments the state has already made to provide additional
20 outreach and support to eligible families and providers, increase

1 very young children's access to care, and further reduce racial and
2 ethnic disparities in access to care and oral health outcomes.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The authority shall work with the statewide managing partner
6 of the access to baby and child dentistry program through a no-cost
7 contract to develop a local access to baby and child dentistry
8 program fund allocation formula, key deliverables, and target metrics
9 for increased outreach and provider engagement and support.

10 (2) The goals of the work performed under subsection (1) of this
11 section are to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in access to care
12 and oral health outcomes and to increase the percentage of medicaid-
13 enrolled children under the age of two accessing dental care.

14 (3) The authority shall collaborate with stakeholders to monitor
15 progress toward the goals articulated in subsection (2) of this
16 section and provide support to local access to baby and child
17 dentistry programs and providers.

--- END ---