

Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 517 - Dental Screening and Examination School Requirement (LSB 1211 HV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Requested by Representative Mary Mascher

Description

House File 517 requires all children, between the ages of three and six, as well as children entering high school have a dental screening prior to enrollment in public or non-public elementary or high schools. The requirement does not apply to individuals who submit an affidavit stating that the screening conflicts with religious beliefs. The Bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to specify the procedures that constitute a dental screening and sets forth requirements for recording the screening.

In addition, HF 517 requires schools to inform parents of the screening requirement at least 90 days before the start of the school year and allows for provisional enrollment if the child is in the process of obtaining the required screening. Local boards of health are required to provide the DPH with evidence, within 60 days of the start of the school year, that all children within a school district have met the screening requirement.

Background

Dental screenings are currently and will continue to be available through Title V Child Health Clinics, local public health departments, community health centers, free health clinics, and school-based nursing services. Service providers will charge third party insurance programs when available.

Dental care is also currently available under Medicaid to eligible children ages four to 14. The DHS reports that 26,481 children are currently eligible for dental services. Of these, 18,208 received care.

Assumptions

- The DPH will have increased costs associated with evaluation, technical assistance, reporting requirements, and printing and supplies, such as audit cards, certificates of completion, exemption waiver forms, incomplete screening forms, and shipping.
- The 8,273 children, age four to 14, who are eligible, but did not access dental services under Medicaid, will be required to have a screening at \$23 per child, which will be covered by a combination of federal and State funds.

Fiscal Impact

House File 517 will increase General Fund expenditures by an estimated \$69,000 and 1.0 FTE position annually for the Department of Public Health beginning in FY 2008. The cost may be reduced to \$39,000 and 0.50 FTE position if other legislation is enacted that funds the I-Smile Children's Dental Home Support Program.

The Bill may increase General Fund Medicaid expenditures by \$68,000 in the Department of Human Services beginning in FY 2008; however, it should be noted that the screenings associated with this cost are currently available to children, but are not accessed. If the services were accessed at this time, the current Medicaid budget would cover the cost.

Sources

Department of Education
Department of Human Services
Department of Public Health
Iowa Association of School Boards

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 5, 2007

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
