

HB 1037 -- Dental Benefits

Sponsor: Yates

This bill creates the Dental Carve-Out Act of 2004. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the Division of Medical Services within the Department of Social Services to establish and implement a process for managing dental benefits for public assistance recipients. The process can use various methodologies, programs, and practices to determine the medical necessity and appropriateness of a recipient's treatment;
- (2) Requires the division to contract with a single source private entity to provide dental program management service coordination;
- (3) Allows the division to place coverage limits on dental services, excluding state and federally mandated services. The limits must be based on sound clinical practice guidelines;
- (4) Prohibits the division from requiring a dentist to alter a patient's previous course of treatment unless the alteration is warranted by the patient's condition and initiated by the dentist; and
- (5) Contains a severability clause.