

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 278

**DATE:** March 16, 2001

**Version:** First Engrossment

**Authors:** Nornes and others

**Subject:** Expansion of access to dental services

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### Overview

This bill establishes a grant program for nonprofit community clinics that provide dental services, allows the commissioner of human services to increase MA reimbursement rates to dentists and dental clinics deemed critical access dental providers, and requires a study and report on how to increase dental access using dental hygienists and dental assistants.

### Section

- 1 **Dental service expansion grant program.** Adds § 144.1499. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a grant program to award grants to the Academic Health Center to establish or expand the operations of nonprofit community clinics that provide dental services on a sliding fee scale and that do not restrict access to services based on a client's financial status. Requires grant funds to be used for capital expenditures or to expand dental services in the community.
- 2 **Physician and dental reimbursement.** Amends § 256B.76. Allows the commissioner of human services to increase MA reimbursement rates up to 50% for dentists and dental clinics deemed by the commissioner to be critical access dental providers. Lists criteria for the commissioner to consider when determining whether to deem a dentist or clinic a critical access dental provider. If there is no critical access dental provider in a service area, allows the commissioner to designate a dentist or clinic as a critical access dental provider for that service area if the provider will significantly increase access to dental care in the service area.
- 3 **Study; dental care access.** Directs the commissioner of human services, in consultation with others, to study and report to the legislature on how dental hygienists, dental assistants, and other health care professionals may be used in new ways to improve access to dental care. Specifies what the report must address, and requires the report to be completed by January 15, 2002.
- 4 **Appropriations.** Makes blank appropriations from the general fund to the commissioner of

human services for the 2002-2003 biennium to fund the rate increases for critical access dental providers, and to the commissioner of health for the 2002-2003 biennium for the dental service expansion grant program.

5 **Effective date.** Makes section 2 effective the day following final enactment.